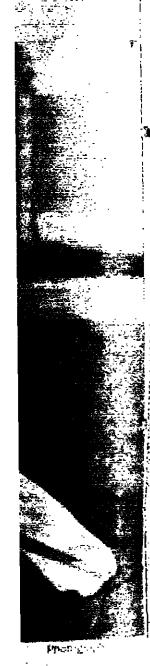
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What next after A-levels? Get our 48 page guide to your future with tomorrow's Independent see page 3 for details



WEDNESDAY 14 AUGUST 1996

Complacency under fire

Tory MPs back down on imposing gun ban in wake of Dunblane

IASON BENNETTO and ANTHONY BEVINS

Five Tory MPs and the shooting lobby stood isolated and besieged last night in their refusal to support the banning of band-guns in the aftermath of the unhlane massacre.

The decision by a House of Commons committee not to recommend outlawing all pistols and revolvers because it was "too costly and impractical" was greeted with a torrent of outrage from bereaved parents. police, anti-firearms

campaigners and politicians. The division was highlighted by the publication of a minority report by the five Labour members of the Home Affairs Committee who wanted a ban on all handguns but had been out-voted by the six Conservative members.

It also became increasingly

'If we want to stall the development of a gun culture in Britain, then we should ban The private, domestic

possession of all handguns. It is simple, popular and it will work' Leading article

page 11 clear that the Government, fearing the strength of the gun lobby within its own ranks, is prepared to hide behind the inquiry into the Dunblane shooting by Lord Cullen as cover for firm action. The Government yesterday pledged that it would enact any proposals for a gun crackdown offered by the inquiry, which is due to publish

next month. The report, Possession of Landguns, ruled out a series proposals to reform the existing guns laws and concluded that a handgun han would produce, at best, a "minimal" improvement in public safety, and warned against "panic legislation".

It questioned the impact of a han by asking: "What would be the point of a total ban on the lawful holding of handguns if there remained easy access to

unlawful handguns, and easy access both lawful and unlawful to powerful rifles, or to shotguns which, given time to reload, would have the same result?"

It argued that a ban could cost £17m in lost ammunition sales and accessories, and £140m in compensation to

200,000 handgun owners. It also said a ban would effectively bring an end to pistol shooting as a sport pursuit.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, condemned the committee and said: "This is a report for the public, not for the vested interests of the gun lobby. People want a ban; it's commonsense; they can't understand why anyone should want to keep a lethal weapon in the comfort of their own

John Crozier, whose fiveyear-old daughter Emma was one of the 16 children murdered with their teacher by gunman Thomas Hamilton at Dunblane in March, claimed the committee had bowed to the powerful gun lobby. "I cannot believe this insult to the children and their teacher," he said.

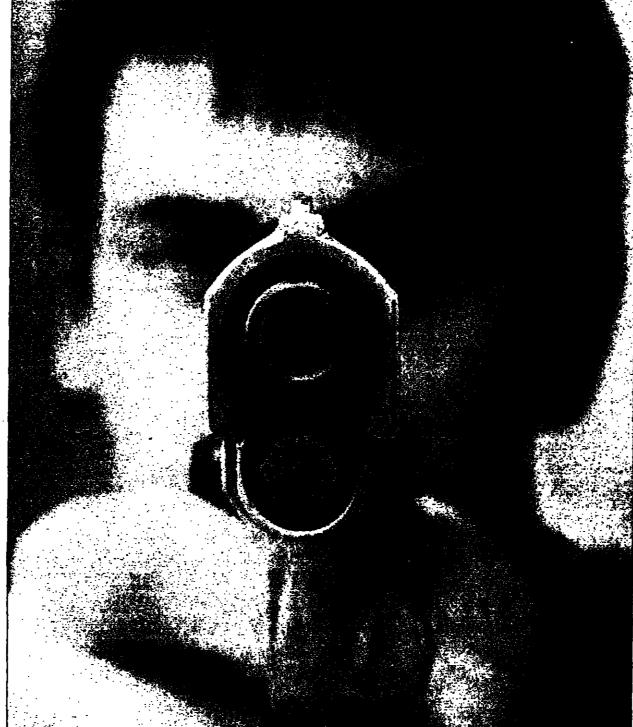
But the committee's Tory chairman Sir Ivan Lawrence accused his critics of "talking out of the back of their heads"

He added: "I am not convinced that overwhelmingly the public are in favour of a ban on legally held gims. If by banning legally held handguns we could stop [Dunblane killer] Hamilton, that would have been easy and we would have done that."

Public opinion, however, appears to be overwhelmingly behind a ban on private ownership of handguns with a recent poll showing that nearly three quarters of those questioned favoured the weapons being

The NOP/Sunday Times poll last month of 1,565 adults found that 72 per cent supported a ban compared to 21 per cent who

were against one. In response to the report and the remarkable backlash it has caused, David Maclean, the Home Office minister said: We will not shirk our duty." Mr Maclean explained: "There's a whole host of things Lord Cullen has to investigate that politicians in the Westminster hothouse cannot investigate."



Too costly to ban? A 9mm pistol similar to one used by Thomas Hamilton at Dunblane

But he then promised not only that a parliamentary slot had been left open for legislation - but that it would be filled as quickly as possible after

Lord Cullen reports. Senior Labour sources suspect that the Government has been forced to pledge action by the sheer weight of the public revulsion to Dunblane.

The Association of Chief Police Officers pronounced itself "extremely disappointed" by the report's rejection of even a partial ban on the possession of handguns. Fred Broughton, the Police Federation's national chairman, called the report "desperately disappointing". saying it rejected virtually every

constructive recommendation

put forward by the police. There were dissenting voices too within the Conservative Party. Former Tory minister David Mellor said the whole af-

fair had been mishandled. But the gun lobby welcomed the report's general thrust. Pat Johnson, of the British Shooting Sport Councils, said: "Our view has always been that if Photograph: Tony Buckingham

there's a calm, dispassionate look at the facts, the committee would be almost irresistibly drawn to the sort of conclusions they were drawn to today."

Ian McConchie, general secretary of the National Pistol Association, called the report "a commonsense judgment on community".

A-level pass rate rises by 2 per cent

GOUL HIIQUI Education Editor

A rise in the A-level pass rate of just under 2 percentage points - one of the biggest improvements for seven years - is expected to be revealed tomorrow when more than 300,000 candidates receive

their results. Exam officials believe that the provisional figure, understood to be 1.8 percentage points, is low enough to enable them to ward off criticism from traditionalists that A-level

standards are falling. A similar improvement in results was achieved in both 1992 and 1994. The biggest improvement was in 1994 when the final figure was 1.9. Last year's increase was only 1.1 percentage points.

There has been an increase of between 1 and 2 percentage points in the A-level pass rate in each of the last 15 years. More than four out of five candidates now achieve a pass. However, the proportion of candidates securing a grade A is rising more slowly.

This is the first year in which significant numbers of candidates have taken modular A-levels, in which they sit a series of tests over two years plus a final exam rather than one big exam at the end of their course.

Traditionalists had predicted that the pass rate would rise because candidates are allowed to resit modules but first figures suggest that the effect of the change has been limited.

Although modular exams may have improved the pass rate because weak candidates who fail modules can drop out or resit them, they may make it harder for candidates to secure A grades for which a consistently high performance is

equired over two years. Only about one-quarter of all

QUICKLY

Westwood for Dior?

Vivienne Westwood, one of

Britain's most anarchic and

irreverent designers, was yes-

top French fashion house, Dior.

candidates took the modular exams, mainly in English, science

and maths Both the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority and the examination boards point to other reasons for candidates' improving performance besides changes in the format.

One is the improved performance of girls at A-level. Since 1989, the percentage of girls gaining three or more A-level passes has gone up from 10.4 to 16.4 per cent. The equivalent figures for boys are 11.3 and 15 per cent.

In a recent paper, the au-thority suggests that another explanation may be an increase of 20 per cent in the last 30 years in the proportion of candidates in the top two social classes. "Since performance at A-level and university entry correlates with socioeconomic grouping, the growth rates may well be related," it says.

Alan Smithers, Brunel University's professor of public policy, said: "One reason for improving A-level results may be changes in content to include subjects such as sports studies and media studies. Another may be different types of exam includ-

ing coursework and modules. "Perhaps the key factor may be what examiners regard as acceptable. Each year they look back to what bappened last year. Candidates on the bor-

derline are rarely put down." Tony Higgins, chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, said: "If the A-level results are better than expected then, overall, more people will make the grade and there will be fewer places in clearing."

Improved results would cause no difficulties in most university departments. The only problem might be over places for medicine and dentistry where there are strict targets to be met.

CONTENTS

BUSINESS & CITY . . 15-19

COMMENT 11-13

Weighty problem Britons are getting fatter, women are drinking too much and children are still taking up smoking in spite of the Government's targets for a healthier nation.

CS Gas adopted Police patrol officers throughout England and Wales are to be allowed to carry CS sprays after a six-month trial was

dcemed a success.

Chechnya ceasefire Russian and Chechen commanders were reported to have agreed to a ceasefire yesterday. the first sign that the bloody battles over Grozny might be coming to a close.

Convention lifts off The Republican Convention in San Diego was in buoyant mood, turning fire on President Bill Clinton, after General Colin Powell and Nancy Reagan

ation and compassion. Page 10

CROSSWORD20 terday tipped to take over the **GAZETTE** 14 replacing Italian Gianfranco **LEADING ARTICLES . . . 11 LETTERS** 11 UNIT TRUSTS 15 ARTS8-10 CROSSWORD 26 EDINBURCH 10,11 FINANCE 17 **LISTINGS** 24,25 LIVING4,5 THEATRE 6,7 TRAVEL 12,13 TELEVISION28 **WEATHER 25**



Vicar is murdered in churchyard



Christopher Gray: bleeding to death

REBECCA FOWLER

A young vicar with a "brilliant future" was murdered in a brutal stabbing early yesterday morning in the grounds of his parish church in Liverpool, and police were last night searching for a man they describe as 'highly dangerous". Christopher Gray, 32, the

vicar of St Margaret's Church in Anfield, Liverpool, a gifted scholar who had insisted on working in a tough urban parish, was discovered bleeding to death by neighbours, after they heard a cry.

Following the attack, a young mother of two in a house near the vicarage fought off a knifewielding intruder who burst into her home. The intruder

tried to abduct her before stealing her red Ford Escort car and

The Rt Rev David Shenpard, the Bishop of Liverpool, led a service for the shocked congregation at the church in place of Mr Gray last night. He paid a glowing tribute to the priest, whom he ordained four and-a-half years ago, after the vicar's parents, who were on a walking holiday, were informed of their son's death.

The bishop said: "The death of this much-valued priest is a tremendous loss to me personally, and to all of us in the diocese. At 32 years of age, one of the ablest priests of his generation, Christopher Gray had very special gifts of scholarship." As a student at Oxford Uni-

versity Mr Gray received a first, "with congratulations", in his history finals. He was also a talented linguist, musician and writer, but he was determined to face the challenges of an inner city church in a socially deprived area

Mr Gray had returned short-ly after midnight to his vicarage. in Thebrook, from a function entertaining foreign visitors in Liverpool. At about 12,40 neighbours heard him speaking to another man whose voice

They saw the man run from the scene near the church, and he then went to a house in a nearby road. He forced his way past the woman who opened the door, threatened her with a knife, and took her car keys.

According to Chief Inspector Elmore Davies, leading the police murder inquiry, the woman was so determined to protect her two young children, who were also in the house, she found the strength to fight off the man when he attempted to abduct her.

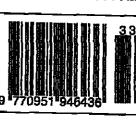
The police revealed that the man they are seeking, named as Terence Storey, 31, had received advice from Mr Gray in recent weeks, since he was released from Liverpool's Walton

For the church the tragedy illustrates the growing risk facing clergy who have traditionally kept an open-door policy. The Bishop of Liverpool said the risk for vicars had become "part of the job" in diocese across the be there."

country as Britain has grown more violent. He said: "If you start to say

it is more likely to happen in one parish than another, you can't be sure of that. We have been advising clergy not to make appointments with people when they are alone in the house, and we know Christopher was trying to make sure people were "One or two of my colleagues

among the bishops have spoken to me in recent months about the difficulty of asking clergy and their families to move into particular parishes," he added. But we are determined we will stay in every parish in the country. Chris was there very much by his own choice, he wanted to | reinforced an image of moder-



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Road block: Wreckage lying across the A40 in west London after an aircraft landing at RAF Northolt crashed through a fence into a van yesterday. The van's driver, Gary Jewel escaped with minor injuries, as did the jet's captain and its passenger, actress Lisa Hogan. The co-pilot was being treated for a fractured nose and severe cuts Photograph: Pl

Electronic spying gleans world's 'top level secrets'

DUNCAN CAMPBELL

A new book published in New Zealand today is likely to irritate Western intelligence chiefs, with its detailed account of the global electronic intelligence network being used by the English-speaking nations to spy on the world's communications from top-level diplomatic and military messages to babble on the Internet.

The book, Secret Power, by political campaigner Nicky Hager, is based on interviews with past and present intelligence employees who have worked on the search through intercepted top secret new system, called Echelon. The system is used by Britain's electronic spy agency GCHQ, as well as by its American, Australian and Canadian counterparts.

To avoid the risks of anoth-

Critics of the Commons home

affairs committee decision to re-

iect a han on the domestic pos-

Officers - were being hysterical.

Tory chairman Sir Ivan

as Recorder, the backbench

Snatching the chance of a

Lawrence said yesterday.

ANTHONY BEVINS

Political Editor

behalf, the publishers of Secret Power maintained a news blackout about their plans until last night, when copies were re-

blowers describe Echelon as an veillance system, which intestations across the globe using tening bases. At each base, computers known as Echelon Dictionaries automatically messages according to target lists of subjects and people.

system, says Hager, is that be-fore Echelon different countries and different stations knew what was being intercented and er Spycatcher legal action by the to whom it was being sent. British government or by the Now, even security cleared op-

their heads". It was a typically

robust and forthright response

from Sir Ivan, one of the most

resilient and thick-skinned men

in the House. One Labour MP

who has watched him closely

Some Tory colleagues are

surprised that a man of Sir

Ivan's undoubted ability had

never been a minister. Never-

pose on the back benches. And

New Zealand government on its erators may not know what out, or to whom.

hold lists of different categories tem, identified by code. The tar-Japanese commercial and diplomatic messages as well as tionary computers have been ingrates secret monitoring regional communications and the operations of Russian fishtionary search results appear "almost instantaneously"

their information. "The [intel-

Critics are accused of hysteria

colleagues on the guns issue. For most Tories, it is taken as

read that the gun lobby - like

the hunting lobby, farming, big and small business - have to be

deferred to, which is why the

Government wants to hide be-

hind Lord Cullen if a guns

crackdown is required in the

vate lunch party held by Alas-tair Goodlad, now Chief Whip,

perennial rebel Alan Clark

turned up wearing an anti-

hunting tie. During the meal,

Once upon a time, at a pri-

wake of Dunblane.

ligence] agencies can all apply for numbers on each other's Dictionaries. The hardest to deal with are the Americans. [There are] more hoops to jump through, unless it is in their interest in which case

The operatives say that Dic-

allowed the Echelon project to go ahead in New Zealand.

people," Mr Lange says, had told the author "things that I as Prime Minister in charge of the intelligence services was never told... It is an outrage that I and other ministers were told so little. This raises the question of to whom those concerned saw themselves ultimately answer-

The importance of the new Pacific stations linking into the Echelon system, says Hager, was that after the late 1980s, Britain and America could no longer listen to all the world's communications solely from stations on their own territories.

moves, changes or adds words to a document, and occasionally inserts the word "wazzu". It is spread by opening an "infected" document - though there is no way for the hapless user to know ahead of time if the document poses a risk, unless they have one of a new breed of virus-

ware in the world.

Virus

plagues

Microsoft

Word

Have you seen a wazzu lately?

If not, then count yourself lucky
- for the newest virus to hit the

world of computers is spread-

ing like wildfire, since its ap-

pearance around the beginning

Sightings have already been

reported in the UE, US, Israel

and Iceland of the latest

"macro virus", which infects

documents written with Mi-

The Wazzu virus randomly

CHARLES ARTHUR

Science Editor

trous in a large document, such as a contract, which could be riddled with gibberish. Also, any further documents written with an infected program will also wazzu at random. Anybody who receives a Word document written by an infected program one hope of Tory defection on will in turn be infected too.

> "It is already the second most common macro virus,"

> ries of instructions embedded in a document which tell the user's machine to automatically carry out various instructions. Unlike standard viruses, macro viruses are not limited to one particular make of computer: they can affect PCs or Apple Macintoshes. It can be spread by Word files sent in e-mail, or

ple use only a fraction of the

program's capability.
"To consider taking out the functionality [that makes macro viruses feasible] would be a step back for the industry," said Stuart Anderson, Microsoft UK's support services manager. "I mean, can you have too much functionality?"

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

The RUC was last night accused of conducting a witch-hunt against officers who belong to the Protestant Orange Order. Four men, a sergeant and three part-timers, have been suspended after claims they took part in parades in Co Fermanagh. Officers are not prohibited from belonging to any of the loyal orders – they include the Apprentice Boys and the Royal Black Institution – but they can face disciplinary action if they take part in parades. can face disciplinary action if they take part in parades.
Police confirmed four officers had been suspended from

duty while the force's complaints and disciplinary branch investigate unspecified allegations. But Unionists claimed the suspensions were part of a move against policemen who are members of the various organisations.

As another postal strike went ahead today, the head of the Royal Mail warned its future was at stake. The managing director, Richard Dykes, who has just written outlining the latest offer to all the service's post workers. said rivals would not besitate to exploit the disruption if it continued. Several local post services have begun since Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, temporarily suspended the Royal Mail's monopoly on letters under £1.

Meanwhile, magistrates' and crown courts could be disrupted next month if 2,000 administration workers vote to strike over a pay dispute. Members of the Civil and Public Services Association in the Crown Prosecution Service are being balloted on a week-long dispute in protest at a new performance-related pay offer. Louise Jury

ospital trusts are on target to free more than £100m for extra clinical care, through efficiency savings aimed at excessive red tape and bureaucracy in the NHS. Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, said yesterday. But the amnouncement was marred by criticism from hospital managers, who say that the drive to cut administrative costs has compromised patient care in many parts of the country, while the health care unions said that the target of 5 per cent cuts set for this financial year could only be achieved at the expense of clinical excellence.

Mr Dorrell, for whom reducing bureaucracy in the NHS has become countries of a personal crueada, rejected the

has become something of a personal crusade, rejected the claims. He said in addition to savings of £103m he was predicting - a cut in real terms of 8 per cent - health authorities would this year also reduce their administration costs by £39m. This, in turn was on top of £14m already saved in 1995-96. Liz Hunt

The poor state of the West Coast Main Line - scene of last week's Watford train crash - has been blamed by a passenger group for appalling standards of reliability. The North-western Rail Users Consultative Committee (RUCC) safe line failed to achieve the Passengers' Charter target of 00 per control of an inches and the passengers. of 90 per cent of arrivals on time or within 10 minutes, and sometimes sank to only 60 per cent punctuality.

It blamed the continuing need for renewal and modernisation of the track and signalling for many of the problems. Despite promises of investment, the plan "seems to have been slowed by the privatisation process". The criticism comes just days after the crash at Watford, in which one woman was killed and 60 people injured when a commuter train collided with an empty train. Louise Jury

Three collectors of birds' eggs were fined a total of £7,600 yesterday for illegal possession of rare specimens. They appeared before magistrates at Salisbury, Wilts, following a nationwide police and RSPB operation codenamed Avocet - aimed at collectors and traders in rare breed eggs, which are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Geoffrey Peirson, 48, a property developer, was fined a total of £5,000 with £80 costs, while businessman Anthony Parkes, also 48, and scaffolder Michael Sloane, 36, were respectively fined totals of £1,600

The court heard that when police raided Parkes's home last September, they found more than 10,000 eggs - one of the largest seizures in Britain. It has been illegal since 1954 to collect wild birds' eggs. All three defendants were members of the Jourdain Society – a respected charity body which studies eggs. A society meeting in Salisbury was raided by police in July, 1994. This gave rise to the later Operation Avocet, named after the rare bird which forms the logo of the RSPB.

Dollce have begun preparing for the arrival of French detectives investigating the sex killing of 13-year-old Caroline Dickinson on a school trip to Brittany. In her home town of Launceston, Devon and Cornwall force Inspector Paul Munns said he anticipated the French

inquiries "could take some time".

The Launceston Community College pupil was raped and suffocated in a tiny dormitory at a hostel in Pleine Fougeres on 18 July. She was among a party of 35 girls and five boys from the 1,200-pupil college on a week-long trip, together with five teachers. Insp Munns said it was not known whether the French police would require DNA samples from the boys on the trip. The cross-Channel initiative followed the release of 39-year-old drifter Patrice Pade, who confessed to Caroline's murder but was cleared when his DNA did not match samples taken from her.

A teenager was fined £350 for playing loud music in his car. Gary Smith, 19, appeared before Eastbourne magistrates yesterday, after the borough council brought a case against him under the Control of Pollution Act 1974. He denied a charge of playing a loud speaker in a car which could cause annoyance between 9pm and 8am.

Magistrates heard the case followed a crackdown by police in the town following residents' completes Society of

police in the town following residents' complaints. Smith, of Cobbold Avenue, Eastbourne, was stopped in his H-registered Vauxhall Cavalier, inside which police discovered a giant speaker on the back seat.

erry services between the Orkney islands were crippled yesterday by the first of a series of one-day strikes in a row over crews' working hours. Nearly 30 ratings on three inter-island ferries stopped work in a dispute over their claim for "even time" working of two weeks on; two weeks off. The municipally-run ferry company argues this could only be achieved by hiring more ratings, and that would increase costs by more than 13 per cent.

Aparking warden has made an official complaint against the police after he was arrested and handcriffed. for trying to put a ticket on a van outside Buckingham

The warden defied a policeman who ordered him to ignore the vehicle, making a delivery at a goods entrance. But when the warden continued about his business, the policeman arrested him, handcuffed his hands behind him back and from arched him. back and frogmarched him away. He was also told he was in danger of being charged with obstructing police before being released without any further action being taken.

leased in New Zealand cities. The New Zealand whistleautomated international surthe intelligence agencies' own network of satellites and lis-

The significance of the new

raw information is being sent The Dictionary computers

of intercept available on the sysgets in the South Pacific include ing boats and Antarctic bases. According to operators, Dic-

By 1992, according to a former national security agency chief, the overall international system was processing 2 million intercepted messages every hour. An unnamed New Zealand Echelon operator says that while the Americans have access to everything collected by its allies, they do not share all

they'll do it for you."

stalled throughout the world at listening stations and intelligence agency headquarters. GCHQ's London Dictionary computers scan telex and data messages passing through British Telecom's international

In a foreword to the book, David Lange, who was Prime Minister of New Zealand from 1984-89, says that much of the book's information has come as a surprise to him, desnite having taken a decision which

censed by this provocation that

he picked up a pair of scissors and cut off Mr Clark's tie at the

knot. It was a jolly jape, but it

also tells us much about the na-

ture of the Tory hunt - and

For the Tories on the home

affairs select committee, the

point would not have needed

making. No caucus would have

been necessary for John Green-

way, MP for the Yorkshire con-

stituency of Ryedale; Warren

Hawksley, MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge and owner of

where its loyalty lies.

Mr Lange admits that he grudgingly anthorised the construction of a New Zealand satellite monitoring station in

1984 but says he had no idea that thereby "we had been committed to an international integrated electronic network".

crosoft's Word word-processing program – possibly the most widely-used piece of office soft-

Committee on guns: Chairman hits back at opponents of decision not to endorse ban checking programs to guard The effect would be disas-Welshpool; Dame Jill Knight, dovenne of the Tory backbench 1922 Committee; and Walter Sweeney, MP for the most marginal Vale of Glamorgan. The

> "Wazzu appears to be the most advanced macro virus to date," said Shannon Jenkins, of built one-vote Tory majority, was David Ashby, the colourful MP for North West Leicestershire Tonchstone Software, in London. "And it is spreading like wildfire."

> > said Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant at Dr Solomon's Anti-virus in Ayles-Macro viruses consist of a se-

> > on floppy discs.
> > Such viruses are only possible because Microsoft has increasingly made Word less like a replacement for the typewriter, and more a program-mers' tool, which can carry out independent instructions such as opening files or writing words without the user's intervention. Millions of copies are used workdwide, but most peo-

Labour 'minority' makes voice heard

session of handguns - including over recent years describes him the Association of Chief Police as a "mega-workaholic".

break from a London court theless. Sir Ivan has proved

hearing in which he was sitting there is a role and a political pur-

QC judged that his critics were he has filled it in a way that will

"talking out of the back of please many of his backbench

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

The five Labour members on the committee of MPs investigating firearms were furious with their Tory colleague's refusul to recommend outlawing most handguns. In an unusual move they have published their own "minority report".

Their recommendations

To "dramatically reduce" the

ownership of guns in private hands. The committee noted the possible emergence of a gun culture based on the ready availability of firearms. It also highlighted "a powerful shooting lobby which is unlikely to accept any serious restrictions". ■ The private possession of handguns should be banned. Shotgun certificates should no The Labour MPs argue that al-though a large proportion of crime involving firearms are there is not justifiable use.

committed with illegally held guns reducing the number in circulation can only improve matters. Calls for partial bans were tions such as RSPCA inspectors,

general ban. ■ Methods of reducing the

ruled out as "impracticable".

Exceptions could be made to specific activities and occupaveterinary surgeons. knacker-men and athletic starting pistols.

A small number of guns clubs that can demonstrate that firearms used at the clubs could be securely kept, at a central point, and in such a way they do not pose a public risk, may be considered as exceptions to the

number of legally held shotguns must be considered as several deaths have been caused by these weapons recently.

Mr Goodlad became so ina country house hotel near

guns on grounds of cost, prac-tically, and effectiveness. It also rules out other wide ranging measures, opting instead for changes of existing structure and improved police scrating. The six Tory MPs on the Home Affairs Select Committee report-Possession of Handguns decided: Bearing the possession of all gans would be "too far reaching" and "ineffective" as it would not prevent unstable individuals from gaining access to guns illegally, it would also prevent farms, game shooting and clay pigeon

shooting.

A ban on handguns was turned. down because it would have trade, employment and cost implications". Estimates suggest, the sales of pistol ammunition and accessories could be worth £17m. Compensation for confisceted handguns might cost £140m. The Tory members said "penic leg-islation" should be avoided. They conclude that banning of allguns would bring only "minimal" improvement to public safety.

THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS The 48-page nuclority report on They also reject benning at hand-fine must refuse to ben hand-gurs except those used in sports events and single shot models because they doubt if would "make a mass killing any less likely". If Holding handgars in a centrally stored area, such as a gui deal-

er or club, was ruled out because the committee did not believed that a "determined criminal would he prevented from using a weapon for criminal purposes". If feeping handgins separate from ammunition unless they were on licensed premises was turned down because of "practi-cal difficulties". A proposal for restricting the

number of handgurs an individual can hold was rejected.

The committee found "significant practical difficulties" with paychatric testing. There should not be a legal requirement upon clubs to pass to which have been rejected.

Positive recommendations inchaded: GPs should supply medical in-

formation about a person apply

ing for a gun certificate and the application form should be checked and signed by the doc-tor. The British Medical Association has almady Elected this proposal. ■ A hationilide system for sharing infermation between police

the committee, which has an in-

- libel case loser and one of the

few Tory MPs to have been de-

selected by his local party as can-

didate for the next election. In

the event, Mr Ashby was so in-

dependent-minded that he went

with the pack.

ing infermation between police forces should be set up. Names of offenders involved in violence, threats or infermediation should be chacked against records of finearm and should neithfeath holders.

Two references should be posited. The references should be posited. The references should then be questioned by the police.

More meads to be three by Customs and Butise to detect and playing this lightly impostation of finearns as this appears to be the finearns as this appears to be the finear and property of the soluce of finearns as about the soluce of finearns as covered effections.

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She denies it of course. But Vivienne Westwood, the British former queen of punk, is tipped to take over

Will this be Dior's new look?

TAMSIN BLANCHARD FASHION EDITOR

She was the Queen of Punk and reigns over British design as its most anarchic, irreverent champion. And now Vivienne Westwood is tipped to take over the king of French fashion houses, Christian Dior.

The rumours began that Westwood, who first made her hark on fashion with the punk store Sex and Seditionaries, would take over Dior when its present head Gianfranco Ferre announced his departure in

But yesterday the fashion world whispers suggested that Dior has already appointed Westwood and is waiting to make an official announcement at the October shows in Paris, when Ferré steps down.

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Westwood denied the rumour. "We would like to declare untrue the rumours on Mrs Westwood's appointment at the House of Christian Dior," a statement from her British office said. "Mrs Westwood is very honoured by the rumour, but at the moment her main concern is to organise the ready-toyear spring/summer 1997 show Paris.

Dior, estimated to turn over more than £1bn a year, celebrates its 50th anniversary in 1997. Whether Westwood is its next conturier and whether she is given the job is almost irrelevant. The very fact that she is under consideration is a coup, not only for her but for the British fashion industry as a whole.

Design houses from New York to Milan come to London in search of talent fresh from our fashion colleges. Now, it seems, the brain-drain is reaching up into the highest echelons of the industry.

Since John Galliano took over at the French couture house Givenchy, British designers have looked set to conquer the fashion world, if not commercially, at least creatively. British talent has already cleaned up in just about every other aspect of the fashion industry: the editors of the two leading American fashion magazines, Anna Wintour and Liz Tilberis are both British, as are the leading fashion pho-tographers Albert Watson, Craig McDean, Glen Luchford and David Sims.

British models are the most sought-after, Carolyn Park, one of the young British models who featured in the summer's Gucci campaign, is also making waves with the Italian label MaxMara, Hugo Boss, and Versace's diffusion line, Versus. One of the latest to hit the big time commercially is the Scottish aristocrat, Honor Fraser, currently to be seen in a whole host of international advertising campaigns that include Ungaro, Russell & Bromley, Rena Lange, and Isaac Mizrahi.







Christian Dior is owned by sales are the key to haute couture, while jeans lines, acces-







LVMH (Louis Vuitton - Moet Hennessy) the same company that owns Givenchy, and Louis Vuitton. John Galliano's eccentricity and refusal to compromise has created more publicity for Givenchy than the house has seen since Audrey Hepburn wore its clothes in Funny Face. And publicity is what it is all about; perfume sories, sunglasses and hosiery



licences are increasingly the key to ready to wear. LVMH is in the market for a designer who will not so much make beautiful, wearable clothes, as a designer who will generate as much publicity as possible. Now, the rumour and speculation that accompanied the decision over who would take the reins at Givenchy are being repeated. Westwood would be a logical contender to design Dior. She, like Galliano, has a fascination and comprehensive

knowledge of the history of fashion which is important if a designer is to respect the history and tradition of Dior, the house which was founded in 1947 with the controversial New Look. She was in Paris during the haute couture season, attending the annual cocktail party thrown by the Chambre Syndicale de la Couture Parisienne. Westwood also attended Yves Saint Laurent's show, en-

Nexander McQueen, Christian La Croix, Marc Jacobs and Jean-Paul Gaultie Saint Laurent has at his fingertips. "He could do anything he wanted," she said, imagining perhaps, a more flamboyant, over-the-top collection. In an interview with Le Figuro

in July, Dior's chairman, Bernard Arnault, said: "I want modern creativity in the spirit of Christian Dior himself." And it seems as though he is looking in the right direction. Other designers rumoured to thusing afterwards about the exhave been approached include the hip downtown New York pertise that a couturier like

American, Marc Jacobs, a favourite of the Croydon supermodel Kate Moss; Martin Margiela, the original avantgarde deconstructivist designer who has managed to remain a cult underground figure while building up a thriving business on sale in the world's leading department stores; Jean-Paul Gaultier, the whacky designer and TV presenter might not seem such an outlandish suggestion, considering his early days under the tutelage of



and REBECCA FOWLER

The "cash for foetuses" fiasco hit a new low last night, when a woman who is 20 weeks pregnant with twins told a newspaper that she may abort one or both babies because her house was too small, and her marriage is threatened by their birth.

"Pro-life" groups, who last week raised thousands of pounds to halt what was thought to be the first selective termination of a twin in Britain. say they fear that some women are now being tempted to hold their unborn babies to ransom in the hope of cash handouts.

Nuala Scarisbrick, of the anti-abortion charity Life, said it would be investigated thoroughly to determine if it was a genuine case, worthy of help. "We have asked for 72 hours to look into this. We have a small sum of £10,000 available but we are aware of the possibility of people seeing us as some kind of golden egg.

The development follows the Differ controversy last week over a woman who had one of her twins selectively aborted because she could not cope with two. Scarcely had that furore died down when it was revealed that a 31-year-old woman, Mandy Allwood, who was carrying eight embryos, would con-tinue with the pregnancy after she and her partner struck a deal for up to £1m with the News of the World.

The latest case, reported in the Oxford Mail, involves a woman who lives with her husband and two children in a three-bedroom house in Banbury. She said she and her husband talked about getting rid of one child, but now it might have to be both. "I don't want to get rid of either of them. He thinks it's not fair to keep one and not the other. If we had somewhere to put them it might be different, but we'd struggle so much I don't think my husband will cope with it all.

"I might have to do it for the sake of my other kids. They couldn't go without a dad and I don't think my husband will cope with the pressure of more kids. I think he'll leave and I don't want that."

Meanwhile the sage of Mandy Allwood, and her partner, Paul Hudson, 37, continued yesterday with the entrance of his mother who declared that her son was a "shameless opportunist". Sybil Wheeler added: "I think the real reason he is so happy about the pregnancy is because he believes it



Pierre Cardin; Christian Lacroix, who heads up Paris's youngest couture house bearing his own name, has also been talked about.

Two other young British designers who would certainly cause a stir were they to be appointed are Alexander Mc-Queen and Hussein Chalayan. McQueen however, would not take the job. "There is only one Paris fashion job for me," he said. "Yves Saint Laurent." Now that would be interesting | will make him rich."

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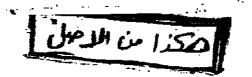
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Health of the Nation: Dangerous appetites persist despite state-sponsored push to promote exercise and prevent disease

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Fitness campaign fails to tip the scales

Chief Political Correspondent

British men and women are get-ting fatter, women are drinking too much, and children are still taking up smoking, in spite of the Government's targets to make Britain a healthier nation.

The Secretary of State for Health, Stephen Dorrell, was warned by the National Audit Office (NAO) that the NHS was failing to meet three key targets which it set four years ago for reducing obesity, drinking among women, and smoking by 11 to 15-year-olds.

The Health of the Nation targets are a central plank in the Government's campaign for a healthier country, and the findings of the NAO will come as an embarrassment for ministers.

The report said the Department of Health set a target of reducing obesity among men by 25 per cent by the year 2005, but the number of overweight men had more than doubled to 12 per cent.

Women, however, appear to be worse at fighting the flab. The NAO found that obesity had nearly doubled to more than 15 per cent of the female population, in spite of the NHS target of reducing the percentage of fat women by one third

Perhaps more worrying for the Government is the continued rise in smoking among schoolchildren, in spite of its attempts to cut the trend, including bans on tobacco advertising near schools.

The Government set a target of reducing smoking among 11 to 15-year-olds by a third by 1994 after finding that 8 per cent found that 8 per cent was probably the low point. It remained at 10 per cent before rising to 12 per cent. "This suggests that the actions taken or co-ordinated by the Department of Health to reduce smoking among children have not been

successful," says the report.
Mr Dorrell yesterday rejected pressure to ban advertising of tobacco products. He denied such a ban would help to stop young people smoking, and insisted that higher prices were more likely to stop young people taking up the habit.

However, the Government has come under fire from the Liberal Democrat spokesman. Simon Hughes, for allowing one school to be sponsored by

crease the pressure for more concerted action to reduce preventable illness. The NAO report on the Government's Health of the Nation targets, set in 1992, found that progress was being made in 11 areas, including strokes, breast cancer for 50 to 69-year-olds, suicide, lung cancer for men under 75, accidents, and gonorrhoea.
It was making some progress

towards its targets in six other areas, including cigarette smoking among men and women, the consumption of saturated fats in food, and under-age preg-

But there was too little information to make a judgement on the targets for blood pressure, cervical cancer, skin cancer and giving up smoking in pregnancy. There had been no change in lung cancer in women under 75, or in drinking among men. And there was insufficient useful data on mental illness leading to suicide, or on drug misusers sharing needles (a prevalent cause of Aids).

The NAO called on the Government to take further action where targets were not being met, and to improve the supply of data. But it did not offer any practical ideas on how Mr Dorrell can act to change people's

There are initiatives being planned to tackle obesity and teenage smoking, but as long as children regard smoking as fashionable, they are unlikely to were smokers. But the NAO The anti-Aids campaign raised questions about the value of shock advertising on young

> "Nanny knows best". But another former health minister, Edwina Currie, was accused of adopting a hectoring tone when she advised people about their dietary habits. Mr Dorrell, a thin man who drinks little, and who does not smoke, may be the right role model for the targets, but he has no plans to act as the

a tobacco company.

The report is likely to in-

Virginia Bottomley, the for-mer Secretary of State for Health, used to tell her officials: nation's nanny.



Cheers: Two women meet for a drink in a wine bar; the government campaign to reduce women's consumption of alcohol has had little effect Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Private hospitals hit as fewer pay for cover

' DAVE KNEW WHAT HE WANTED...

NICHOLAS TIMMINS Public Policy Editor

The number of subscribers to private medical insurance dipped last year, with more private hospital beds closing than opening for the first time in a decade.

Despite the presence of congrowth in private health cover, 1995 remained essentially flat, figures published in Laing's Review of Private Healthcare, the annual "Bible" of the private

health care industry, show. And the National Health Service is continuing to take private patient business away from private hospitals, with NHS paybeds increasing their share of the market last year to an

estimated 15.1 per cent, against a little over 11 per cent in 1988. Some 6.5 million people, or around 11 per cent of the population, are covered for private

medical treatment. But that

figure has remained unchanged for five years.

Despite the market remaining in the doldrums, premiums continued to rise faster than inflation, at 2 per cent above the retail price index, and look set to continue to do so for the rest of the decade, the review says.

After 10 years in which the

grew by between 100 and 300 a year, the total fell last year for the first time in a decade, down by 471 as four private hospitals closed and only one opened. At the same time the number of dedicated NHS paybed units rose by three to 77. Between them, these account for the bulk of NHS private patient activity and rival in size the biggest private hospital groups, providing 1,400 beds against Bupa's 1,700, General Healthcare's 1,540 and

Nuffield Hospitals' 1,450 beds. The proportion of elective operations paid for privately has also fallen. This is partly due to

the Government's drive since 1991 to cut NHS waiting lists and waiting times, which has increased the number of elective operations performed by the NHS. While privately paid-for operations in both the NHS and private hospitals rose sharply,

the increase in ordinary NHS activity has been even greater, accounted for just under 13.5

dures in England and Wales in 1992/93, the last year for which full figures are available, against almost 15 per cent in 1986.

The improved efficiency of the NHS means that during the 1990s "the NHS has been challenging one of the key selling points of private medical insurance", the review says. It offers "a potential threat" to pri- growth in private medical in- Healthcare 1996; 0171-284-1268.

suppose that the NHS will seriously undermine the demand for private medical insurance. Further independent hospi-

tal closures are, however, likely as the big insurers develop preferred provider" networks. These limit the hospitals which can be used by those covered by some of their schemes. Deper cent of all elective proce- vate cover, there is no reason to surance cannot be long de- £130.

layed, William Laing, the review's editor said. "Just like the housing market, the conditions for recovery have been in placed for some time and look set to continue to be so as disposable income rises, as middle management 'downsizing' runs its course and as the economy generally continues to grow. Lames Kerren

Mars craters that could hold the key to meteorite ALH84001

CHARLES ARTHUR Science Editor

A week after Nasa's announcement that life could have existed on Mars, a scientist has searched 42,283 craters on the planet - and narrowed the source of the fossil-containing meteorite down to two of them.

Dr Nadine Barlow, who carried out the search electronically on a computer database of Mars craters, says that the results could be used to direct future space missions to the planets to give them the best chance of finding fossil remains. "There are no plans to land spacecraft at these locations at present, but there is the possibility to focus on these

areas," she said yesterday. Both lie within a few hundred miles of each other in the eastern area of the heavily cratered where asteroids have repeatedly



The elliptical crater on the south-eastern edge of the bigger one is a possible source of the Mars meteorite

hit the planet during its life. Meteorites would be thrown into space from the surface by an

Dr Barlow, a physicist at the University of Florida, began checking possible sources almost immediately after last week's news from scientists at

which is thought to show signs that early life developed 4.5 billion years ago, was thrown from the planet 16 million years ago and then drifted in space before landing in Antarctica about 13,000 years ago.

"16 million years may sound like a long time to humans, but ern area of the neavity trainered southern highlands of Mars, suthern highlands of Mars, where asteroids have repeatedly that meteorite ALH84001, short period, particularly for a her work later this year.

planet like Mars which has anparently experienced little geologic activity over the past billion years, she said.

She fed a set of search criteria into the computer which held a database of all the craters on Mars - a catalogue she had produced as a postgraduate in the Eighties. Then she told it to search for craters that were comparatively young, but in ancient terrain - since the rock itself was very old - and in sites where water had once been, as the rock contained carbonates.

A high-speed search cut the 42,283 candidates down to 23. which were in turn reduced to two by further refinement. "I'm fairly confident this is correct," Dr Barlow said yesterday. "I think that the criteria we used were conservative. But I have been working almost around the clock on this."

Dr Barlow hopes to publish

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Windfall tax could fund new jobs

COLIN BROWN

Chief Political Correspondent

Labour's windfall tax on the privatised utilities could be used to fund the creation of jobs in the regions to defuse the Tory attack on Labour's "tax bombshell".

Under the plans being prepared by Labour, some of the tax on the excess profits of the water companies could be offered back to them for job creation in the regional water industries.

Senior Labour sources said earmarking the receipts from the tax for jobs and training in the regions could win wider support from the business community and answer Conserva-

tive attacks on the raid on excessive profits by water and electricity companies.

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, is committed to imposing the tax to pay for Labour's jobs and training programme. The tax would be paid to central government, but John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, is keen to see some of the money harnessed to finance the drive for growth in the regions.

The water and electricity companies would be expected to take part in some of the job creation schemes, which would be directed by regional devel-

claimed that the privatised companies pushed through a £20m pay and perks package for their directors while becoming the worst group of persistent polluters in the country. The Labour survey, disclosed in the Independent on Sunday, showed that 12 executives in 10 larger water companies received packages in pay, bonuses, pension contributions and share options worth more than half a

million pounds each. The companies have been fighting Labour's plans for a windfall tax, but Labour believes some will see the advantage of paying a tax which comes Earlier this week, Labour back to them either directly in job

through benefits to their regions. Mr Prescott is behind ambitious plans to take Labour's draft election manifesto on the road in dozens of meetings around the country. The tour, which will be joined by the party leader. Tony Blair, will seek to win support for the broad thrust of New Labour policy before the party conference in October.

Mr Prescott said: "I have been preparing a big push for the "Road to the Manifesto" campaign. Every constituency party is going to be involved, and trade unions. It is the biggest consultation exercise that has taken place."

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Go-ahead for all police to carry CS spray

JASON BENNETTO Come Correspondent

Police patrol officers throughout England and Wales are to be allowed to carry CS sprays after a six-month trial of the incapacitant which has been deemed a success.

Michael Howard, the Home nounce the decision next week and officers from all 43 police forces are likely to be have the

beginning of March. Police chiefs hoped they would help to stem the rise in the number of officers injured. The spray can reduce someone to a coughing, spluttering wreck within sec-

The Home Office agreed to Secretary, is expected to an- be guided by the police chiefs and has approved the use of the device after chief constables and police officers said they were imspray by the New Year. Hand- pressed by it. A police source

held CS canisters were issued to said: "On the whole we are de-3,800 officers in 16 forces at the lighted with the results. The spray has been far more effective than we could have hoped."

Liberty, the civil rights group, attacked the decision, arguing that there were still severe problems with the training of oficers in the use of CS and unanswered questions about side-effects.

The group said that about 20 people were taking action against the police for alleged abuse of the device.

was sprayed on 366 occasions. It was drawn but not used a further 268 times. The deterrent or "threat" value of the spray was an unexpected bonus, the police

At least two people needed sprayed but the police said they have no reports of long-term medical harm. CS spray takes immediate effect and causes streaming eyes and nose, eye-lids spasm, breathing difficulties,

and in some cases blistering of time-consuming incidents.

The Association of Chief Po-The use of the incapacitant

reduced the number of assaults during the first half of the trial by 6.8 per cent and time lost by 66 per cent. An unarmed control group, who were compared to the officers with CS, recorded a drop in attacks of 14 per cent and time lost was down by 43 per cent. The result, while confusing, may suggest the new the more serious and thus

lice Officers self-defence subcommittee will meet to finalise plans in the next few days. A spokesman said: "Feed-back from officers on the ground has

they want. If they are happy then so are we."

The Home Secretary gave the police permission to carry out trials of CS spray after rejectper sprays on the grounds of po-tential health dangers.

The trials are currently taking place in the Metropolitan Police, and the West Midlands, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Avon and Somerset, Cambeen extremely positive."

A Home Office source bridgeshire, Cleveland, Dorset, added: "it's up to police what Durham, Dyfed-Powys, Kent, Leicestershire, Northumbria, North Yorkshire, West Mercia, and West Yorkshire forces. Once they have been given

the official go-ahead, officers

made spray and it is expected to eventually become standard issue for all front-line officers. However chief constables in some rural forces are yet to be convinced that the sprays are last year but where halted after

from other forces will be trained

Trials were due to take place a Metropolitan Police instructor suffered burns to his eyes and had to have them covered

Arts news: Shortage of room forces star to sell £500,000 worth of modern works - Scots bid to reclaim Edinburgh festival

Mr Caine regrets he no longer has space for his Picasso

DAVID LISTER

The actor Michael Caine is selling works of art worth more than £500,000 because he cannot find room for them in his Oxfordshire mansion. The collection includes paintings by Pi-casso, Lowry and Salvador Dali.

Caine and his wife Shakira are selling their other home in Hollywood to spend more time in Britain. The art collection has decorated their American base for some years.

The collection, which will be auctioned by Sotheby's in London this autumn, is made up of dozens of art deco and art nouveau objects and a pen and ink drawing by Henry Moore in addition to the paintings. Once the couple had shipped the artwork back from the US, it became clear there was not enough room for it to fit alongside pieces the couple already own

Caine said yesterday: "I had hoped we might be able to squeeze the two collections together, but there simply isn't the room. I shall be sorry to part £20,000, and a large elephant with the things we had when we lived in Los Angeles, but I was concerned that the more fragile pieces could get damaged by being crammed in too tightly." He bought most of the art

work in a brief period of collecting in the late 1960s at a time when art houveau and art deco was being rediscovered.

up over many years like Michael Caine has done. Part of the ap-peal of all these works, beyond their intrinsic merit, is the fact that they are fresh to the mar-

A pen and ink portrait by Picasso of his mistress Dora Maar, signed and dated 16 July, 1945, is estimated to sell for up to £15,000. A charcoal pen, ink and pencil drawing entitled Two Figures by Henry Moore from 1943 could fetch up to £6,000. There are also paintings by Paul Nash, Charles Ginner and Henri Gaudier-Brzeska

A signed water colour by Salvador Dali, Trois Personnages Assis, is estimated at between £4,000 and £6,000. The prints include Marc Chagall's Les Amoureux sous l'Arbre, expected to fetch up to £18,000.

Art nouveau and art deco pieces include works by Galle, Daum, Tiffany, Lalique, Mucha and Erté. The vases by Emile Galle are likely to fetch some of the biggest prices. One in-scribed with a verse from Baudelaire could sell for up to vase could fetch up to £35,000.
Phillipe Garner, head of 20th

century decorative arts at Sotheby's, said: "When I started at Sotheby's, I knew Michael Caine was an enthusiastic collector who was acquiring good examples of art nonveau and art deco. I am delighted, a quarter of a century later, to be asked A Sotheby's spokesman said: to sell this delightful collection "It is certainly rare for a famous which might hopefully introduce person to sell a collection built new collectors to the market."



No room at the mansion: Michael Caine showing off some of the objets to be auctioned at Sotheby's in the autumn. Top right: Henry Moore's charcoal drawing Two Figures, and (below) George de Feure's Figure with a Dog



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Suspense at the Grouse House: Melanie Stewart Dance Theatre's 'Cocktail in the Sky' Photograph: Jo Rankine

DAILY POEM

Waiting

By William Emest Henley

uare, squat room (a cellar on promotion). Drab to the soul, drab to the very daylight; Plasters astray in unnatural-looking tinware; Scissors and lint and apothecury's jars.

Here, on a bench a skeleton would writhe from, Angry and sore, I wait to be admitted: Wait till my heart is lead upon my stomach, While at their ease two dressers do their chores.

One has a probe – it feels to me like a crowbar. A small boy sniffs and shudders after bluestone.
A poor old tramp explains his poor old ulcers.
Life is (I think) a blunder and a shame.

WE Henley (1849-1903) suffered from boyhood from tubercular arthritis and had a foot amputated. In 1873, the year this poem was written, and in an attempt to save the other, he spent a year under the supervision of Lister in the Edinburgh Infirmary. Here, he met Robert Louis Stevenson and the two became great friends. Henley's 'Hospital Sketches' were published in 1875. Years later, a courageous and independent editor of a number of important Scottish literary magazines and reviews, he published the works of Yeats, Henry James, H G Wells, Hardy and

Fringe venue aims to scotch the English

MARIANNE MACDONALD

Scottish performers, piqued by the domination of the Edin-burgh festival by the English, have opened their own dedicated fringe venue, the first of its kind in the event's 50-year

The setting-up of the Fa-mous Grouse House represents the start of a campaign by the Scots to reclaim their rights to the international arts festival, which takes place annually in their capital and attracts more than a million visitors from across the world.

From the beginning, Scottish performers believe, the festival has been effectively hijacked by the English. They dominate both the management side the current director. Brian McMaster, is English as have been all but one of the previous directors - and the major fringe

Nor is the problem confined to drama. On the music side as well, there is increasing anger about the exclusion of Scottish work. "In the entire official Edinburgh International Festival programme there is but one work by a Scot, James MacMillan's opera ines de Cas-tro," Hugh McBain of the Scottish Society of Composers said.

His view is echoed by Hugh Loughlan, a prime mover in the creation of Scottish International at the Famous Grouse House, and artistic director of Gallus Theatre, a touring company set up to encourage Scottish writing and performance. "Scottish culture has been so

here is a bit like dedicating a venue to performers from Lapland," he said.
"This is our capital city and

our festival, yet the Scots have not been represented in the Fringe. This has been the situation for 50 years. If that happened in any other country such as England - I don't think they would have been too happy."
Mr Loughlan's experience

of reviewing Scottish shows for the Edinburgh Evening News for the past two years of the festi-val has made him sharply aware of the way that Scottish companies have been oushed aside by English ones - often because of financial constraints - and forced to perform in scattered. poor-quality venues.

"I happened to find a programme for the Edinburgh Festival in 1967 or 1968. It had one piece of Scottish theatre in it, by John McGrath," he added. "This year's festival has one piece of Scottish theatre in it by John McGrath. That's how far we've moved on."

He and Raymond Ross, his fellow artistic director at Gallus, decided to take action. Thanks to sponsorship from the makers of The Famous Grouse whisky, they have rented a venue from Edinburgh University and scheduled a programme which includes drama. children's entertainment, community and youth work.

"The great thing is that it is not just for the Scottish performers." Mr Loughlan added. "It is for the Scottish audimarginalised by the English ences, too."

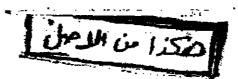






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international

Robert Milliken crosses Australia's outback in the luxurious Ghan on a trip that once took two days and now takes 22 hours

Railway revival in a town like Alice

Its silver carriages gleaming in the outback sun, the Ghan stands at Alice Springs station waiting to take me on the overnight journey through the desert to Adelaide. A hot, dry wind blows down the tracks. The winter" temperature is 28C.

The contrast could not be greater with my last overnight train journey, from Muscow to St Petersburg in the snow. But certain similarities apply. Uniformed attendants wait outside each carriage to direct passengers to their berths (although they do not knock on my door just before bedtime asking me to pay money to use the sheets, as they had on the Russian train).

I am in the Algebuckina car, between the Oodnadatta and the Oasis cars, named after rivers and settlements along the 1,500km-route south. My first-class berth is self-contained: a bed, a basin and a loo, all of which fold away to leave a comfortable seat. At 2pm, right on schedule, the train slides out of the station, through the red and ochre walls of the Mac-





fidently into the Never Never. It was not always thus. Up to 16 years ago, buying a ticket on the Ghan and hoping to reach your destination on time was

like taking a ticket in the lottery The original tracks, built through shifting desert sands, frequently washed away in flash floods. Termites attacked the sleepers. The train was so slow that its unofficial theme song was "I'll Walk Beside You". The story is still told of a train that was stranded for two weeks by floods and of the engine driver who shot wild goats to feed his

passengers. Then in 1980, Australian National Railways, the government-owned rail company, decided that the Ghan should not be allowed to die. It built a new line, with concrete sleep-ers, across almost 1,000km of desert. It replaced the rickety rolling stock with luxurious. air-conditioned cars. A trip that once took anything from two days to two months now takes 22 hours, and the re-born Ghan



Alice in wonderland: The Ghan represents the new face of Australian railways, luxurious, speedy and efficient railway journeys of Australia, if

not the world.

When the first Ghan steamed into Alice Springs on 6 August 1929, hauled by locomotive NM35 with its cow-catcher at the front, and cheered by welcoming locals, the scene was like something from Australia's version of the Wild West. Alice Springs, in Australia's "dead heart", was still as cut off from the rest of the country as it had been in 1872 when it was founded as the site for a telegraph station. For more than 50 years, camels and their Afghan drivers, first imported in the 1860s, had been central Australia's primary transportation link with the

The Ghan was named in

pletion from Adelaide to Alice was part of a grand vision for a 3,000km north-south transcontinental railway linking southern Australia with Darwin, and thence the lucrative markets of Asia. The vision remains just that, and the line still stops

at Alice. Elsewhere, though, railways played a pivotal part in expanding Australia's frontiers. By the 1940s, at the beight of rail's fortunes, the country's total track network, if laid end-toend, would have stretched from London to Sydney and back. The trouble was that each of the six states had managed to build six different systems with

With the arrival of the car and

government planners decided it was simpler to let railways fade away than to turn them into a truly national system. Shamefully, that almost happened.

Now governments have re-alised belatedly that it is more efficient to move freight by rail than road. In 1992, the federal government sank millions of dollars towards finally ironing out the colonial mess of a multi-gauge system. It also set up a new corporation with the aim of taking inter-city freight off roads and on to rail.

Last year it became possible for the first time for trains to run the 4,000km between the east and west coast capitals on the same international standard gauge rail. Passenger train

pace. But the Ghan and another iong-distance passenger train, the Indian Pacific, running between Sydney and Perth, are the inheritors of Australia's great railway era.

As darkness fell, and the Ghan ploughed on between the Simpson and Great Victoria deserts, I reflected on that era with a passenger at my table in the dining car, a young engineer from Northern Ireland. He told me that he was taking a month to see Australia by train with a rail pass that al-

travelled from Sydney to Adelaide on the Indian Pacific, to Alice Springs and back on the Ghan, and was planning to

north Queensland, on another restored passenger train, the Queenslander a total of 13,000km for £600. The trains were giving him a true sense of Australia's immense distances and physical contrasts. This is a nostalgia trip for me," he said.

"There's nothing like this train left in Britain." We repaired for drinks to the non-smoking lounge car (there lowed him five separate trips. It was good value. He had

is a separate lounge car for smokers). The carriage, decorated in Aboriginal motifs, filled up with what appeared to be retirees enjoying, as my Irish friend put it, "the fruits of their life's hard work". A woman played the piano and the others sang songs such as Daisy, Daisy, Give Me Your Answer, Do.

Although most of my fellow passengers appeared to be young or middle-aged tourists, the revived Ghan still performs the original train's function and stops, by request, at sidings in the middle of the night to take outback dwellers to town.

Urban Australians still remain wedded to cars and aircraft. Be in the frazzled Nineties, there is a yearning for a return to more leisurely, civilised forms of travel. And, if the Ghan's performance is anything to go by. it should add strength to that process. When we pulled into Adelaide station next morning at 11.10, we were half an hour early. Original Ghan hands, eat

for seven hours, almost in a

straight line, without stopping.



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Bear lovers discover nature of their beast

MARY DEJEVSKY

a brown mountain bear attacked a flock of sheep near the small settlement of Prat-Bonrepaux and killed six lambs. So what, a phlegmatic French townsman would say, such things happen from time to

time; that's how nature is. Unfortunately, however, the bear was not just any bear. She was Mellba, one of two small brown bears recently intro-duced into the region in the hope of saving the endangered ter of the lambs threatens to revive a controversy that has rumbled beneath the surface since the project was mooted.

In 1991 four districts in the central French Pyrenees joined forces to promote economic development through tourism. Their thoughts turned to bears, partly in the light of concern that a France-Spain road tunnel then being discussed could kill off the last of the Pyrennean

to be only eight left. In 1993, the French environ-From high in the French Pyrenees comes news this week that a brown mountain here. task of finding and reintroducing the bears was entrusted to a French organisation called Ar-tus and Slovenian bears were se-

lected as being genetically the closest to the Pyrennean bears. This spring a team of zoologists went to Slovenia to trap their first bear. Its transfer, from trap to special container to van, was avidly followed by French television viewers, as was the release of the animal about six years old and now named Ziva - near Melles

Three weeks later, a second, younger bear - Mellba - was released at a different spot. Both have electronic tags so that their every move can be monitored. A third bear, the first male, is due to join then in the

anyone. Ziva set off for Spain,

much of her time. Mellba, while to the worst, she might be with

remaining mostly in France, has combined elusiveness (which could make attracting the hoped-for wildlife tourists difficult) with a regrettable taste for lambs. She killed her first two weeks ago. Now, it is six in one night.

Certain precautions were taken at the outset to allay fears about the project, the main one being a generous compensation scheme for farmers that works out at about 1,400 francs (£180) per lamb, more than double the market price.

The loss of so many lambs so soon, however, has been an emcoming weeks.

So far, however, what has been discovered has not been discovered has not been composed by the been discovered has not been representative, Patrick particularly satisfactory for Beauchet, said that it was im-

Local people are said to be putting a brave face on Meliba's indiscretions, hoping that the bears will eventually bring in the the bears they lost in the Eighties. "The Pyrenees without bears would be like Africa without elephants," the mayor of Another resident drew a comparison between hear-sighting possibilities and the likelihood of seeing the Virgin Mary at the nearby shrine of Lourdes: "People go to Lourdes without nec-

said gnomically. On the Spanish side, farms, s have reportedly threatened to portant "not to dramatise the situation". "If the worst comes bears cause any trouble. use their guns the moment the

Jakarta arrests more activists

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

More than a fortnight after violent demonstrations in government appears to be intensifying its crackdown on political dissidents with the arrest and detention of 10 more pro-democracy activists.

of the People's Democratic Party (PRD), a small left-wing group which is blamed by the government for fomenting the riots on 27 July. Brigadier General Amir

Syarifuddin, for the armed forces, confirmed yesterday that some of the new detainees would be charged with the capital crime of subversion.

The PRD leader, Budiman leader. The armed forces

Sujatmiko, 27, was arrested near Jakarta on Sunday night with nine of his supporters. The authorities have not disclosed their whereabouts and, accordleast two of the detainees have

been denied legal representation. As many as 200 people remain under arrest since the violence last month, although with independent organisations barred from prisons and hosimpossible to determine. At which began after police raided the headquarters of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) and violently evicted the supporters of Megawati Sukarnoputri, the deposed PDI and intimidation in which jour-

quickly blamed "communist" and others are afraid to publiinsurgents" intent on overthrowing the 30-year-old government of President Subarto.

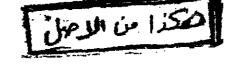
Human rights organisations and foreign governments, in-cluding the United States, Australia and the European Union. have expressed concern at the methods used in quelling the riots. Amnesty International last week said it "fears that accusations of a revival of communism will be used by the authorities to justify further arrests of peaceful political activists and to crack down on the legitimate activities of peaceful pro-democracy, human rights and other groups in Indonesia. The Indonesian authorities are creating an atmosphere of fear

nalists, human rights activists

cise details of these and other human rights violations".

Ms Megawati was questioned last week about her links with the PRD, and has been summoned for another session tomorrow. The leader of the country's biggest unofficial trade union, Muchtar Pakpahan, has been held for a fortuight under the ables police to detain suspects for a year or more without trial.

On Monday, Pramoedys Anata Toer, one of Indonesia's most distinguished novelist and a lifelong thorn in the side of successive regimes, was also called in by police. The 70-yearold writer has spent a total of 17 years in Indonesian prisons.



Orde

A breathing space in Chechnya

حكدًا من الاعل

The battles may be over - but will the ceasefire last? **Helen Womack** reports

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Moscow - Russian and Chechen commanders were reported to have agreed to a ceasefire yesterday, the first sign that the bloody battles over Grozny might be coming to a close for now.

After eight days of fighting in the Chechen capital, Russian media said that a ceasefire would come into effect at noon today local time. But it was not clear whether whether the ceasefire was intended to be permanent or merely a temporary measure to allow the evacuation of civilians and wounded. If it holds, it will be a signal vic-tory for Alexander Lebed, Pres-ident Boris Yeltsin's security chief and envoy to Chechnya. The news came after Russia's

military commander in Chechnya, General Konstantin Pulikovsky, held talks with the rebel chief of staff, Aslan Maskhadov. The meeting began in the early evening in the village of Novye Atagi, 15 miles south of the regional capital. The issue of a ceasefire and, possibly, the mechanism for a withdrawal of units and subunits from the confrontation line are expected to be discussed," said the Interfax news agency before the meeting began.

The tentative peace process was set in motion by General Lebed, who on Sunday made a lightning visit to the war zone to meet Mr Maskhadov and returned to Moscow on Monday saying he was optimistic a ceasefire could soon be arranged. However, there was no reaction from the Kremlin yesterday to his criticism of the Russian government's policy in the Caucasus, and the demands he made for sweeping powers to manage the crisis himself.

In all probability, his sharp comments, made at a press conference, will have set off bitter infighting in the corridors of power. In particular. General Lebed will not have endeared himself to the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, a rival even before the general accused the commission Mr Chernomyrdin heads of failing dismally in its handling of Chechnya.



Russian soldiers carry a dead comrade into a safe area of Grozny during fighting on Sunday with Chechen rebels

press spokesman, Sergei Medvedev, a young journalist who, at his own request, was returning to the ORT state television channel where he used to work. Lately the television has seemed almost as restricted as in Soviet times although one anchorwoman, Arina Sharapova, has let it be known by small comments that the journalists are disgusted by the war in Chechnya. It was probably not accidental that, the other night, the news was followed by a

bullying elephant.

departure of President Yeltsin's week with the express intention press spokesman, Sergei of spoiling President Yeltsin's inauguration celebrations, have run rings round the far larger and much better equipped Russian army.

Yesterday mortar shells were crashing over Grozny as the federal forces tried to retake key buildings in the city-centre still held by the separatists. Rebel information chief

Movladi Udugov, who has been so skilled at presenting Chech-nya's case that General Lebed himself praised him while sayabout a tiny ant outwitting a should go and "fish and pick astrophic lack of medicine," it raspberries at their dachas", Certainly the Chechen rebels. claimed yesterday that the sep-

cent of Grozny. Eyewitnesses said rebels seemed to roam the streets at will while most of the Russian soldiers they saw were dead ones. The toll among servicemen is now officially 221 killed and 766 wounded.

Waves of refugees were trying to flee Grozny. The proscow Chechen government complained that Russian forces were firing on civilians and appealed to the army to open a corridor to let them out of the survivors are desperate for food burning city. "Tens of thousands of people are trapped... with-out food supplies and with a cat-spondent for Russia's largest

said. The army apparently dis-

television station was killed as he and his family tried to leave the Chechen capital during the

and medical aid

escape by melting into the Ramzan Khadzhiyev, who crowd of refugees. wered the North Caucasus for The Russian migration serthe television station ORT, was vice said it had received 10 bilshot in the head twice as he was lion roubles (£1.3m) to cope driving out of Grozny with his with the new homeless. The Euwife and four-year-old son. Inropean Commission in Brussels dependent NTV television approved a new aid package for Chechnya, bringing the total asaired a brief interview with a passenger in the car who said it sistance since the outbreak of was Russian forces who opened war 20 months ago to nearly fire on the vehicle. £29m. More than 30,000 people The pro-government ORT have died in the fighting and

suggested the rebels were behind the slaving, and Khadzhiyev, an ethnic Chechen, had received many threats from the pro-Moscow bias in his reporting and of betraying his people. He was the 19th journalist to die

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

eaders of 300 illegal immigrants fighting to have their position in France regularised said their protest was being stepped up and they would now negotiate only with President Jacques Chirac. They were speaking the day after police raided the Paris church the group has occupied for three months and removed 10 hunger-strikers "for medical checks". All have returned to the church and are continuing their fast. A "rolling hunger-strike" by "star" volunteers for 48 hours at a time has been announced, and the protest is to be extended to more cities. Mary Dejersky - Paris

The first Filipina to admit publicly that she was a Japanese sex-slave during World War Two said that she and six other "comfort women" would accept \$18,500 (£12,300) each in compensation from a much-criticised Japanese fund. Maria Rosa Henson, 68, said she also expected to receive a letter of apology from the Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, without which she would not accept the money. "The apology is more important to me than the money," Mrs Henson said. "Without the apology, I will not take the money. Reuter - Manila

Krista Sager, co-leader of the Greens, shocked Germany's political third force by announcing she would not seek re-election. The German Greens are Europe's the strongest environmentalist party; they have won office at federal state level and moderates hope to ally with the Social Democrats (SPD) to oust Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition in 1998 polls. Ms Sager, who belongs to the wing of the party more inclined to co-operation with the SPD, said she would focus on helping the Greens at regional level in Hamburg, Reuter - Bonn

Bulgaria's President, ministers and diplomats joined mourners at the funeral of the psychic Granny Vanga. Vanga, venerated across the Balkans and beyond for her clairvoyant and healing powers, died on Sunday aged 85 after a four-year battle against cancer. Blind from childhood, she was said to have predicted events ranging from the Second World War to the collapse of Communism and her own death. Reuter - Rupite

Police arrested three former Bangladeshi army officers in connection with the 1975 assassination of the independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Retired army colonel Farook Rechman, ex-colonel Shahriar Rashid Khan and retired major Mohammad Khairuzzaman are to face trial for murder and for rebelling against a legally-installed government. Reuter – Dhaka

A French mountaineer, Jean-Christophe Lafaille, set a world record by climbing two Himalayan peaks more than 8,000m high (26,240ft) in less than four days. Lafaille, 31, climbed Gasherbrum II, 8,035m, then Gasherbrum 1, 8,068m, in the Baltoro region of Pakistan on 28-31 July, Reuter - Grenoble

Bucharest's street children will train stray dogs as helpmates for the handicapped in a programme tackling two of the city's worst social problems. Initially 20 children living grouph will be belond for two worst to train a train living rough will be helped for two years to train strays which will then be given to the blind, the deaf and the immobile. Reuter - Bucharest

Thirty monkeys that were killed when they touched a from the Lord Pashupatinath temple, Nepal's holiest. An official said monkeys were gods and that more ceremonies were to be performed for them today. Reuter - Kathmanda

MGM F-240

Old and infirm left to suffer daily ordeal of bombardment

The people living in Cher-norechive had no knowledge of any ceasefire yesterday. They came under mortar attack midmorning as planes circled over-head, stretching their nerves to the limit.

This district on the south-west edge of Grozny showed the signs of heavy bombardment from the last week of fighting. Smashed tree branches lay in deserted streets pockmarked

with mortar craters. People hung around outside their apartment buildings, not venturing far into the courtyard in case another mortar whistled in. It was noon when the latest attack began. The night had been quiet, residents said, al-

though they still all slept in their cellars. "We heard that Moscow announced an end to air strikes but the planes bombed again yesterday and today, just look what happened," said one Russian woman pointing at the crater and shrapnel marks gouged in the side of the building "It was a deception. They de-

ceive us every time," she added. This time, only one man was Dzhapkayev's paralysed moth-

Civilians are still awaiting relief from war, reports Carlotta Gall in Grozny

shrapnel, had been taken to the

abandoned psychiatric hospital was being turned into a cemetery for the dozens who had been killed, one woman said.

a mattress in a tiny pantry.
"This is the third time we

have had to live down here. It is an absolute nightmare," he said, shaking from the strain. This is not even safe - how do I know it will not be hit with a penetration bomb?"

The fear is real. Less than a block away a penetration bomb had torn through every floor of an apartment building, blasting right down into the cellar. The only people left in Cher-

norechive are, as in the early days of the war, the old, the infirm and many Russiaus who, unlike the Chechens, have no family network to help them. Chechen refugees were still pouring out of this district, dri-

ving along the tram lines, crossing two dangerously precarions bridges over the Sunzha River, half patched up since they were destroyed in the first battle. Families with small children

down a muddy bank as the men frantically pushed cars along the rails. Mortars had landed in the field beside them minutes before. A grandmother collapsed, her family in tears.

The sound of heavy artillery explosions rolled across from the centre of the city every five or 10 minutes - less intensive than in recent days, but still more or less constant.

A silent procession followed: a young man carrying a wounded, retarded boy and a group bearing a woman on a mattress, who was unconscious, her face marked by shrapnel.

Behind them the sky was black from four fires burning in the western district where Grozny's oil refinery appears completely destroyed.

The Chechen fighters mean-while, who have the run of the district, said they would demand by Russia before easing up their stranglehold on Russian

slightly wounded, but in the next er lay on the earthen floor on

courtyard where a second mor-tar fell, an old woman was killed outright and a one-yearold baby, hit in the head by

hospital, residents said. The elderly victim lay in the cellar under white sheets as neighbours gathered to dig another grave. The garden of an

"We buried five people in a single grave," said Khesir Dzhapkayev, a telephone engi-neer. He just escaped injury this time, bolting into the cellar where his family of four children

and his mother were sheltering. Some 20 to 30 people were in the bunker, a dark warren of nooks and crannies. People ducked under water pipes, lighting their way with matches. Mr

positions. "The war will not end until their troops leave," said Aslan, 21, as he walked back

Bosnia set for imperfect poll ground forces in Bosnia, Lieu- Bosnian Serbs had refused to places of origin, as Dayton

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY Defence Correspondent

The Bosnian elections in a month's time will fall far short of Western democratic standards, United States officials said yesterday, as the Secretary of State Warren Christopher conferred with Nato civilian and military leaders in Brussels. But the Nato Secretary-

General, Javier Solana, stressed how much had been achieved in the past eight months, since the Nato-led peace implementation force (I-For) moved into the war-torn country.

A State Department spokesman, Nicholas Burns, said: "These are not going to be pristine conditions for these elections. This is not going to look like a town in Germany or France ... on election day. We're not going to create these conditions in the next 31 days". The admission came as the

tenant-General Sir Michael Walker, helped defuse a confrontation with the Bosnian Serbs who had refused to allow Nato troops to inspect part of a heavy weapons storage site as they were entitled to do under the Dayton peace agreement.
Dr Solana and General

George Joulwan, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, had visited the Bosnian Serb capital of Pale on Monday afternoon to secure formal agreement that the site could be inspected. But, as so often happens in Bosnia, it took time for the agreement to filter down to the commanders on the ground, and a Nato source in Sarajevo said it "came as a surprise" to many Serb leaders.

Early yesterday morning General Walker took the new Bosnian Serb President, Biljana Playsic, in a helicopter to the arms site at Han Pijesak, 30 commander of the Nato-led miles east of Sarajevo, where the

allow Nato inspection teams access on Monday. Nato officials said the move was, in part, to test the influence of Dr Plavsic. who replaced the indicted warcrimes suspect Radovan Karadzic as President. General Walker returned to Sarajevo late yesterday morning, after completing the inspection. Mr Christopher met Dr

Solana and General Joulwan in Brussels, to discuss the support I-For might provide for the forthcoming elections which aim to create common institutions for the whole of Bosnia, above the two "entities" - the Muslim-Croat Federation and the Republika Srpska. Although the Dayton peace agreement aims to maintain a unified, multi-ethnic Bosnia, in reality Bosnia is now firmly partitioned. The three factions have consistently tried to deter Bosnia's hundreds of thousands

of refugees from voting in their

allows them to. Mr Burns said Mr Christopher would discuss this with the Presidents of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia in Geneva today, along with the harassment of the media and the failure of local

authorities in Bosnia and the governments of neighbouring states to hand over indicted war criminals for trial in the Hague. Having completed the handover of large areas under the Dayton agreement and sepa-rated the armed forces of the former protagonists, I-For's 50,000 troops are now primar-

ily concerned with creating the

best possible conditions for the

elections. This includes opening

up roads and "creating the environment" in urban areas. Some 2,000 monitors from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and other international organisations are expected to oversee



There's a great deal going on

Powell rallies the troops against Clinton

RUPERT CORNWELL San Diego

Their image of moderation and compassion burnished by a bravura performance from reluctant megastar Colin Powell, the Republicans last night turned their fire on President Bill Clinton, all the while straining to play down the reputation for intolerance that has cost them so dear in recent months.

Halfway through its nominating convention the party has, by common consent, largely succeeded in its key objective of hanishing memories of the 1992 gathering in Houston, whose harsh and divisive tone contributed to the downfall of George Bush. San Diego, by contrast, has been sweetness

and light, epitomised by Gen-eral Powell on Monday evening. Winding up an emotional pageant of ex-presidents and a tearful tribute by Nancy Reagan to her husband, incapacitated by Alzheimer's disease, Gen Powell insisted the Republicans were the pro-growth party, dedicated to a strong, upright and prosperous America. "But let us never step back from compassion." he declared, "we must be firm, but we must also be fair."

Nor did he flinch from airing his differences with the stridently conservative party platform on abortion and job quotas. "You all know that I believe in a woman's right to



affirmative action," he insisted to a mixture of cheers and boos. But, he added to thunderous applause, the party was "big enough to disagree on in-dividual issues," while working



Bush: 'Broken-hearted' about

together to propel Bob Dole to the White House.

That was exactly what the conference organisers wanted from the four-star general and former Joint Chiefs chairman, whose precise role at the convention had been in some doubt after his refusal to enter a 1996 presidential race many thought he could win. So too was his enthusiastic endorsement of Mr try has been presented with a last night, on topics from his al- suburban woman who has been marijuana. Though pro-choice,

anointed by tonight's tradi-tional roll-call vote of the states, and his veiled criticism of Mr Clinton's leadership. Also banished thus far - in-

sofar as possible - are the harder edges of the Republican Revolution of 1994, symbol-ised by the House Speaker, Newt Gingrich, now the least popular national politician in America Though he is permanent chairman of the convention and was a speaker last night, Mr Gingrich has scarcely been in evidence here.

Nor has Ralph Reed, director of the Christian Coalition and leading spokesman for the religious right, which played a key role in the Republican recapture of Congress two years ago. Meanwhile, Pat Buchanan, right-wing scourge of Mr Dole during the primaries and the dark prince of Houston 1992, has fulfilled his appointed role of being seen but not heard.

After his written endorsement of the Dole/Kemp ticket on Monday, Mr Buchanan emerged on the convention floor to listen to Gen Powell, but saying nothing that would rock the Dole boat as the candidate struggles to erase Mr Clinton's

commanding lead in the polls. Instead, just as the organisers intended, the 12,000-strong media contingent in San Diego has been denied a whiff of real controversy. Instead, the coun-

leged character defects to issues like health care, crime and the stressing party unity, tailored not for the 2,000 predominantly conservative delegates in the economy, was unlikely to change that judgement. The coveted job of delivering the keynote speech that would cap hall but the millions watching proceedings at home. "Better duli than divisive," the New the night has been entrusted to ing stars. She is everything Mr
the 38-year-old New York ConDole is not - naturally telegenic, York Times wrote of the guiding gresswoman Susan Molinari, a Even the abuse expected to self-described "perky blonde"

abandoning the party in droves because of its harsh line on es and the economy.

Earlier on Monday, two exabortion and other social issues.

Ms Molinari, mother of a presidents delivered harsh critthree-month-old daughter, is one of the party's brightest risicism of Mr Clinton. Gerald Ford recalled his self-deprecating line upon being thrown into the presidency in 1974, that constantly smiling, in touch with youth culture, even a conhe was "a Ford, not a Lincoln" but described the current in- centre of endless Whitewaterfessed "experimenter" with

she was expected to skirt the Dodge". Then Mr Bush abortion issue, focusing on tax-spoke of his "heartbreak" at how the White House had been "demeaned" since he left office, and paid glowing tribute to his wife, Barbara, "the most popular woman in the USA" - a pointed reference to Hillary Clinton, decidedly unpopular and at the



Megastar: Gen Powell at the San Diego convention, rallying the Republicans and also attempting to play down their reputation for intolerance

Republicans still in Reagan thrall as Nancy steals the show

RUPERT CORNWELL

She was dressed in white. She looked as icily coquettish as when she ruled the White House, but this time emanated nothing but dignity and tragedy. She spoke for a bare three minutes or so, yet she managed to steal the show from Colin Powell. Such was the feat of

evening. Such, more appositely, is the enduring hold of her hus-band on the collective imagination of the Republican party.

Ronald Reagan, of course, couldn't be there - prevented by Alzheimer's disease from attending even his own 85th birthday party last February. Mrs Reagan gave no details of his condition other than to speak Nancy Reagan on Monday of the "terrible pain and lone- um recalled the triumphs of the sent at the creation of Reaga- tractors, even in Republican

liness" of "this very long good-bye" caused by the illness which destroys memory. But, in the institutional memory of the Republican party he will never die. There will be no goodbye.

First, the 2,000 delegates sat in adoring silence and sayoured a short video that preceded Mrs Reagan's appearance. Two giant screens behind the podi-

cline of Communism. Skilfully it grafted on to that sun-dappled mythical America of the 1980s, the more chastened Republicanism of the mid 1990s. Henry Kissinger and Lee Jacocca were hauled from the party's Valhalla to sing his praises - but. there too was Jack Kemp, pre-

strategy of the convention.

be heaped on President Clinton

No matter that Kemp has his

who symbolises the moderate

differences with Dole - a taciturn antithesis of Reagan who is driven by doubts not certainty, and who couldn't act if his life depended on it – nor that Reagan's legacy of massive deficits eyes. To utter silence, she were unable to the armount of the armount o and growing disparity between rich and poor has had its de-

Reagan years, from the surge in nomics, and now Bob Dole's ranks. Far more important, his last Republican conventue economy to the terminal device-presidential nominee. Kemp is Reaganism's modern tion'. Her voice broke and her embodiment: supply-sider, taxcutter, and first last and foremost, an incurable optimist.

called how just four years ago. Rounie stood before you and spoke at what he said might be her own, and she quoted from

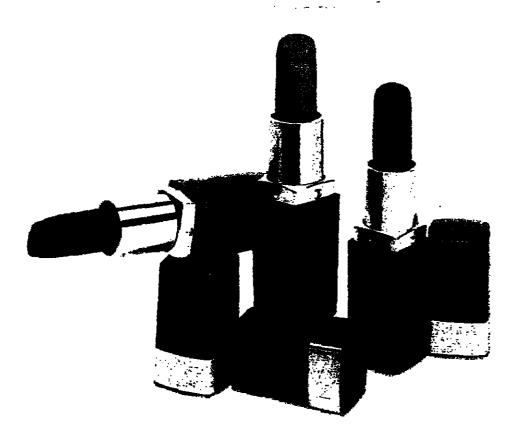
face brimmed with tears: "Sadly his words were too prophetic." But even now, his spirit was very strong, as was his never failing belief in the standard and goodness of America.

Like the tolker actress she

is, Mrs Reagan knows when another's words are better than

his 1992 valedictory address in Houston: "Whatever else history may say about me when I'm gone, I hope it will record that I appealed to your best hopes, not your worst fears, to your confidence, rather than your doubts." He did. And because he made them feel better about themselves, they loved him. Last night proved they still do.

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Reform Party tied to the Perot name

presidential candidate. Mr Lamm, a three-term Democrat Governor of Colorado, and now a university professor, stood for the Reform nomination six weeks ago. As votes were counted this week, he was campaigning from his home in the state the only way he can afford, via back-to-back ap-

pearances on radio talk shows. A Lamm spokesman, Eric Anderson, painted a picture of the Reform Party as a young po-litical movement suffering from growing pains and "a certain amount of chaos". It appeals to a huge group of middle-class Americans who are alienated by the two-party system, aides claim. But for all its claims to be an independent third force,

veterans of the Perot effort in
1992 but, in many cases, are
long-time personal aides. The
long-time personal aides. The
bill for the Reform Party's gathto former Governor Dick
Lamm, "it can't be carried
around by Ross Perot".

But this coming the Perot effort in
1992 but, in many cases, are
long-time personal aides. The
bill for the Reform Party's gathtering in Long Beach last weekfix
fix
Pennsylvania to former Governor Dick
Lamm, "it can't be carried
around by Ross Perot".

But this coming Sunday, it is
widely assumed, the party's
supporters will do the obvious
thing and elect Mr Perot as their
mesidential candidate. Mr accused him of treating the Reform Party as a "wholly owned subsidiary". It is tough, he has said, running against a billionaire who "makes up the rules ... as he goes along".

The California Reform Party, at least than are local against a substantial or substantial and substantial and substantial are substantial are substantial and substantial are substantial

at least, has achieved some independence in a state where Mr Perot's support is relatively strong. Its 27-year-old chairman, Michael Farris, an oceanographic researcher in Los Angeles, said the local party had raised \$150,000 in donations, enough to finance three regional offices, and takes no money from Dallas. But it also he said had a independence in a state where las. But it also, he said, had a "very, very good working rela-tionship" with the local Perot Reform Committee, a separate group funded by Mr Perot.

veterans of the Perot effort in ballot in 34 of the 50 states so 1992 but, in many cases, are far. But the Perot camp has not released any verifiable membership numbers. The voting forms this week were sent to petitions required by law to get the party on the ballot. They are tot paying members, and in an earlier survey only about 5 per cent – 50,000 people – bothered to reply. Two-thirds indicated a preference for Mr Perot.

Mr Lamm has made a professional play for the Reform nomination. His demand for barriers to new immigration, on the basis that 83 per cent of Americans are opposed to it, plays well with Perotistas who analysts say are increasingly young, blue collar, and discontented, and it drew loud cheers in Long Beach. But his name is virtually unknown across the country. Based on his 18.9 per cent share of the vote in 1992. if Mr Perot runs he will have money, an alarming prospect for Republicans. It is unclear whether Mr Lamm, if he won, would have any legal claim to the cash. To underwrite his the party is tied financially and spiritually to the Perot name.

Mr Perot's drive to launch a shoestring campaign, he has shoestring campaign, he has third party in the US has put the laready taken out a \$30,000 mortgage on his home.

Patriot game played to win

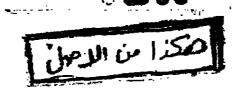
he faithful at the Republican National Convention wear their patriotism on their sleeves - and on their heads, chests, and legs. See the Uncle Sam hats sprouting trunks and floppy ears, in honour of the Grand Old Party's elephant mascot. Marvel at the sequinned waistcoats in red, white and blue. Gaze in wonder at the Stars and Stripes ties and trousers.

You would think you'd stumbled into a giant fancy dress party. But no one is laughing. They mean it. They really love their country. No one more than Mary Eckert of Columbus, Ohio, who beat off 100 other candidates for the honour of leading the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance at the convention's opening ceremony on Monday. Draped in the San Diego Diary

growing up," says Ms Eckert.
"My family tanght me never to put anything on top of the Bible and never to let the fing touch the ground." Are you listening, Michael Portillo?

Ralph Reed, the director of the Christian Coalition, has been making his presence felt. It was his people who cowed Bob Dole into changing the wording of an official convention document which initially advocated tolerance towards the pro-choice Powell camp. It was they who led the witch-hunt national colours, she wore a bil- and New York, successfully will not endorse Bob Dole." lowing fing for a skirt. "I was steeped in patriotism when I was of convention speakers.

Why is Mr Reed so powerful? Because his militants are the best fund-raisers and election campaigners the Republicans have. So they have to give him what he wants. But Mr Reed is an honourable man, so he went before the television cameras and quite properly declared that the party was united and that Mr Dole's tax cuts would be great and that there was so much electricity on the convention floor "you could power the West Coast for a week". So this meant, a reporter asked, that he was endorsing the Dole-Kemp ticket, right? "Oh no," he said, shocked. "The Christian Coalition is an issues organisation. We are going to be against the pro-choice governors distributing non-partisan of California, Massachusetts election guidelines but, no, we



THE INDEPENDENT Summer of spor Wednesday 14 August 1996

NATWEST TROPHY SEMI-FINALS: Lancashire bowler proves a thorn to White Rose as Australian ends Surrey's treble dream

Austin drives out Yorkshire

DEREK PRINGLE reports from Old Trafford Lancashire 293-9 Yorkshire 274-8 Lancashire win by 19 runs

A helicopter may have been waiting to take Michael Bevan to Heathrow, but it was the Australian's whirring bat which held Yorkshire's flight plans to Lord's. Had it prevailed, it would have been the White Rose county's second visit there in a decade. Instead, Lancashire make it their second of the season, a fitting testament to a well-drilled side not afraid to improvise when the moment dictates.

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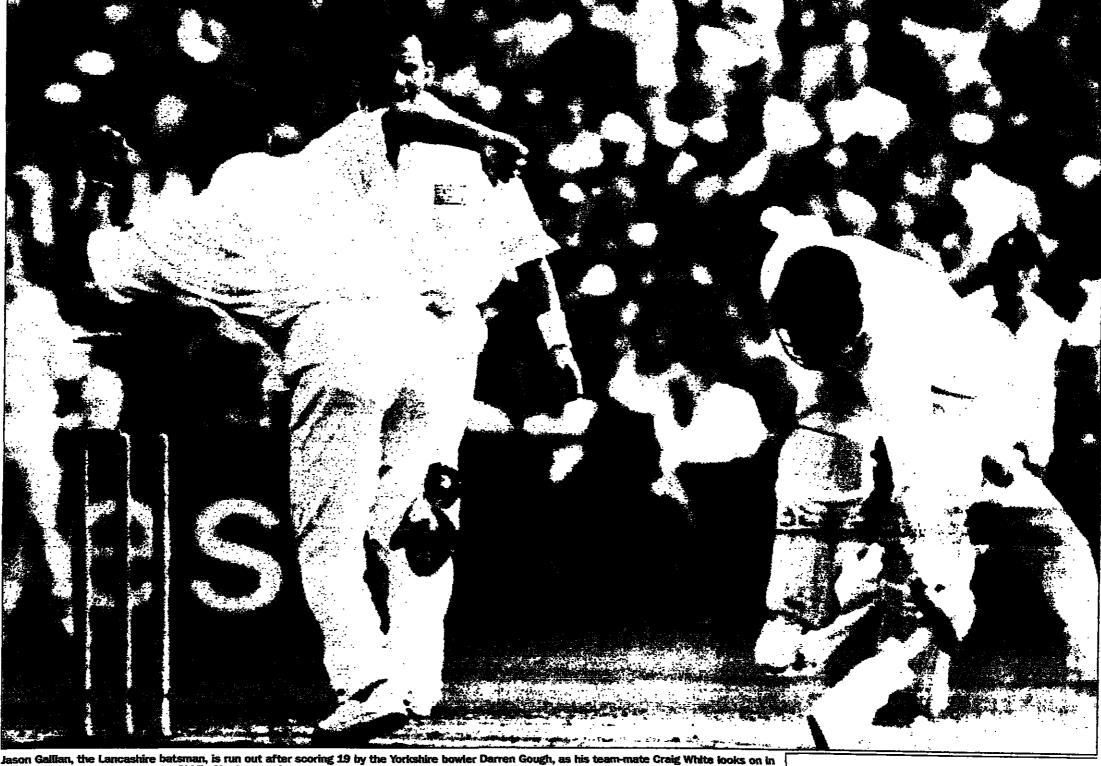
Once again it was the crucial accuracy and verve of that unsung hero Ian Austin, whose three wickets in nine balls - including that of Bevan, earned him the man of the match award from the adjudicator, John Lever. His spell, at a crucial stage of the innings, effectively stuffed out Yorkshire's mounting challenge despite a late rally from Darren Gough and Richard Blakey, who added 75 to give renewed but false hope to the wearying legions of Yorkshire fans.

Not that Bevan need feel the dightest pang of remorse at leaving his county for a training camp in Australia. His 85 was a noble offering to a cause that fell under the pressure Lancashire were able to exert with home advantage on a dusty, turning pitch behind them.

It has been a vintage year for Roses one-day encounters. With the earlier Benson and Hedges semi-final here going to the wire, yesterday's win by the sizeable margin of 19 runs no doubt prevented another outbreak of kittens from the home supporters, whose team have not been beaten at Old Trafford in knockout competition since

After winning the toss and scoring 293 in their 60 overs, the home side were always likely to be early favourites on a used pitch which dusted up as the)game progressed. Lancashire, whose much-vaunted length of their batting line-up is a constant source of comfort to their gung-ho approach to one-day cricket, faltered at the start of

their innings.
Indeed, had the Yorkshire captain, David Byas, been able to catch, the home side would have been in some bother, and he twice reprieved Atherton at second slip before the batsman had made three. The England captain, who eventually made 18, struggled throughout his 60-ball stay, and his scratchy form yesterday was due more to mental fatigue than any searching brilliance on the part of Yorkshire's new ball attack, though Darren Gough bowled order to maintain standards



the Natwest Trophy semi-final at Old Trafford yesterday. Lancashire will meet Essex, victors over Surrey, in the final

and levels of intrigue among Test dismissed Atherton, Fairbroth- brimming with a crisp confinore than one useful delivery, hurrying both openers with his er was determined to dictate

customary bustle. Atherton's mental fatigue highlights the fact that county cricket must be the only sport daft enough to compromise its leading players by having the semi-finals of its longest estab-lished knock-out competition the day after a gruelling Test match: a point the Acheld report has already made in its review of English cricket. Yet, if re-

medial action is to be taken in

players in games such as this, then the counties - who get to vote on the report's findings next Tuesday - must dismiss the selfinterest of a crammed fixture list.

Mind you, with their side slid-ing to 52 for 3, nobody would have minded had the Lancashire batsmen indulged in a period of self-interest, particularly after Neil Fairbrother's departure for a second-ball nought. Having seen Richard Stemp turn several balls quite sharply, including the one that terms from the outset. Unfortunately, his attempted loft over long-on had to be dragged wider as the left-arm spinner spotted his advance and Tony McGrath took the first of three

successful catches in the deep. But if Fairbrother's departure left the majority contingent in an 18,000-strong crowd gasping in disbelief, the muteness did not last long. With an aggressive Graham Lloyd joining an already fluent John Crawley -

dence after his prosperous re-turn to the England side at Headingley - shouts of "Oh Lancy Lancy" soon returned.

Lloyd, in particular, refused to be cowed by the situation. several times employing what can only be described as a reverse cow shot to combat Stemp's forays from over the wicket. However, he, too, benelitted from a dropped catch one of two easy chances Mc-Grath put down - when he was 35; a miss McGrath's own fine innings of 34 could not quite

compensate for. With Crawley not slouching either, the pair put on 145 in 17 overs before Crawley, trying to launch a long-hop from Bevan into the crowd at square leg, perished to the best of McGrath's catches.

Lloyd's departure two overs later, for 81, would have seen most teams' momentum slow. Not Lancashire, though, whose last four wickets added \$1 runs over the last 10 overs. Truly a team effort from a team ready for all one-day occasions.

Law gives Essex a final send-off

DAVID LLEWELLYN

reports from The Oval Surrey 275-5; Essex 278-6 Essex win by 4 wickets

And then there were two - titles left for Surrey to win that is. Their dreams of a treble were smashed to smithereens, hammered to all parts of The Oval first by the prolific Australian baisman Stuart Law - what a pity his country needs him for the tour of Sri Lanka later this month, thus robbing Essex supporters of him for the final on 7 September - then latterly by Ronnie Irani and Robert Rollins, with Graham Gooch supplying a more measured half-century in between.

Essex had gambled on including Law in their semi-final change to the regulations by the Test and County Cricket Board permitting a substitute to take the field should the tie spill over into today.

Law flew home last night for a pre-tour squad get-together, so if he showed indecent haste at times on his way to it was understandable, after all he did have a plane to catch, and Essex a final to reach. They did so with something to spare but not without a few alarms on the way. Surrey's bowlers had been disappointing for the bulk of the Essex maings, but that could not detract from some superlative batting from Law. Successive hundreds from the Australian in the previous two rounds were topped by a 44-ball 53 yestertwo and a half hour innings.

Gooch and Law compiled a

vital third-wicket stand of 96, taking advantage of wayward line and length by the Surrey at-tack. When Law fell to a fine catch by his fellow countryman Brendon Julian out in the deep he had caused more than an hour of mayhem. It was Julian who sent a few hearts fluttering into Essex mouths when he later struck with two wickets in an over to dismiss the captain, Paul Prichard, and Darren Robinson, Gooch, the rock of the innings having been levered

out Chris Lewis after 115 balls. But Irani, who reached a deserved fifty with the winning hit. and Rollins did not panic. They knew they had plenty of time in day, which provided a perfect in-jection of pace to complement. The light was not great, but nor, in first wicket down.

line-up after a last minute the foundations laid by Gooch's in all honesty was the bowling and while not a doddle, it was hardly taxing.

The early morning conditions had certainly not been ide-al for batting so Surrey were at a disadvantage from the off after losing the toss. But the Essex bowlers produced model performances as well, giving the much-vaunted Surrey strokemakers little room for manoeuvre let alone extravagance.

The captain, Alec Stewart, was the honourable exception. He was there from the start and when the innings finished was still on the bridge for an unbeaten 125. But there was precious little support from the rest of his crew in the Surrey middle order, which saw Nadeem Shahid promoted ahead of England's Graham Thorpe to come

Neither batsman fared well enough for the change to be jusiffied and the only thing that gave the Surrey innings any semblance of adequacy was the sixth-wicket flourish in a little more than six overs between Stewart and Lewis. The England all-rounder looked awesome as he thumped three sixes in the 29 balls he faced as he and his Test team-mate knocked off an unbroken 61 between them.

There were one or two heated moments in the Surrey innings, notably when Adam Hollioake stood, possibly in disbelief when Law took a fine catch out in the deep. The batsman eventually departed, albeit reluctantly. Stewart later took exception to a delivery resembling a beamer from Mark llott for which the left-arm paceman was no-balled. Ilott in- hour 45-minute innings,



Alec Stewart reaches his 100 at The Oval yesterday

dicated his apology but Stewart appeared to be unappeased. The Surrey innings by then was drawing to a close. At the end Stewart ran off having hit two sixes and nine fours in his three

Good-bye battery



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Play INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL See page 10 to register

Rough diamond as the Expos and Astros wade in for the brawl of Montreal





A bench-clearing fight that lasted for 10 minutes broke out between the Montreal Expos and Houston Astros in a National League game on Monday night. Five players were ejected along with Houston's manager, Terry Collins, who had his lip cut by a thrown helmet. The trouble began when an Expos batter was hit by a pitch. Montreal's Jeff Juden attempts to deliver a "homer" to the Astros' John Gangelosi (right) Invasion of the slugfest, page 3; photograph, Reuter

Christie faces his last big challenge Wales promote

Athletics

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Despite its status as the most lucrative grand prix event on the circuit, with a budget of \$6m (£3.7m) today's Zurich Grand Prix has proved to be a meeting too far for a battered and weary band of Olympic champions.

Injuries mean that Michael Johnson (200/400 metres), Noureddine Morceli (1500m), and Jan Zelezny (javelin) are all missing out on potential fortunes: Allen Johnson (110m hurdles) and Venuste Niv-ongabo (5,000m) are doubtful.

But the Weltklasse's tradition of excellence, and the footballstyle feryour of the Letzigrund Stadium spectators, will ensure that there will be sufficient performances of quality to mainZurich has always been the place where the Briton has made a noint - whether it has been in defeating the leading Americans, or - as last year - in gaining revenge over the man who had taken his world 100m title two weeks ear-

Now Bailey has annexed the 36-year-old Briton's Olympic title as well. Christie's disqualification from the Olympic final for two false starts means we will never know how close he might have got to the man who went on the lower the world record to 9.84sec. On all the evidence, it

would not have been very close. But, as Christie said after making his final appearance at Crystal Palace on Sunday, "you never know with me." He will have all the motivation in the

tonight means more than Linford Boldon, the Atlanta bronze Christie, it is hard to think of one. medallist who accused him of medallist who accused him of putting his opponents off by refusing to go quietly when he was disqualified. It looks like the last big challenge of his career.

Jonathan Edwards, who was unable to jump further than 16.93m at Crystal Palace, is seeking a performance of a different order as he prepares to take on the man who deprived him of the Olympic triple jump title, Kenny Harrison. But his body is clearly registering endof-scason weariness.

"I'm pleading with it to let me perform," said Edwards, who faces the American twice in the next six days. "Part of me says rest for the next three months and then start training for the World Championships next year. But I hope this will kick-start the rest of my season. If a head-to-If there is an athlete to whom line with Bailey and Ato me fired up, nothing will."

Victory would keep Edwards in contention for a share of the £160,000-worth of gold bars on offer for success in all the "Golden Four" meetings. The Atlanta silver medallist has already won in Oslo and plans to compete in the remaining two designated meetings - Brussels and Berlin.

He is also in the running for a big pay day at next month's grand prix final in Milan. "Every top athlete wants to win in Zurich, the biggest of the one-day meetings," Edwards said. "It would go some way to redressing the balance for me. But whatever happens Kenny has

the one that really matters. What would probably please more than any financial reward would be to jump 18 me-tres again. It would be frustrating if I didn't do that this

Johnson's absence from the 400m with a hamstring injury of-fers Roger Black, silver medal-list behind him in Atlanta, the rare opportunity of a Weltklasse victory. Black, the British recordholder at 44.37sec, would love to find the extra stride to threaten Thomas Schönlebe's nine-yearold European best of 44.33. But he will have his work cut out to

over 300m at Crystal Palace. Richardson, with a best of 44.52, failed to earn an individual 400m place after suffering from food poisoning before Britain's Olympic trials. "I am convinced I would have featured in Atlanta," said Richardson, who won a silver in the relay team. "But that's in the past. I

beat Mark Richardson, who

looked more like a man at the

peak of his form in defeating him

The race of the night could back problem,

be in the 800m where the Kenyan-born adopted Dane Wilson Kipketer, who missed out on the Games, continues his pursuit of Seb Coe's 15-year-old world record against gold medallist Vebjorn Rodal.

The organisers said Michael Johnson would miss the Weltklasse meeting because of the knee injury he incurred in completing his Olympic double on Atlanta's fast but unforgivingly hard track. Morceli will also be absent because he is still struggling with a problem with his ankle which was spiked dur-

ig his Olympic victory. Zelezny has withdrawn be-cause his throwing arm is hurt-ing after a trial for the Atlanta Braves baseball team last week. There are also questions over Allen Johnson, who is suffering with a wisdom tooth, and Bu-

Williams to the senior side

Rugby Union

warded for his impressive Stu-dents' World Cup with promotion to the senior Wales side for their match against the Barbarians at the National Stadium, Cardiff, on 24 August. The 20-year-old Pontypridd flanker is the only newcomer to a team showing three changes from the side which

second Test against Australia in June. "Martyn has great potential and creative ability, the open-side flanker," Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, said. Williams is involved in a complete reshuffle of the back

were overwhelmed 42-3 in the

row following Andrew Gibbs' ill-ness and will play at open-side flanker, allowing Steve Williams to revert to No 8 and Hemi Taylor to blind-side duties. Leigh Davies, who missed the

second Test with a shoulder injury, will pick up his seventh cap in the centre. He takes over from Gareth Thomas, who switches to the left wing in place of Simon Hill.

The other change involves John Davies resuming at tighthead prop for his 30th international in place of Lyndon Mustoe, who is relegated to the bench.

Wales will be meeting the Barbarians for the third time in their history - they were beaten 26-10 in 1915 in an uncapped game and lost 31-24 in 1990 in a capped fixture.

Wales have refused to take Scott Quinnell's strike over pay seriously even though he has refused to attend training and has

not been selected for the squad. Quinnell's agent, Mike Bur-ton, wants the Welsh Rugby Union to treat the former rugby league star as a special case and increase the amount he is paid for appearances. But Terry Cobner, the WRU director of rugby, is confident the dis-

agreement can be resolved. Meanwhile, the Barbarians have announced a change in their line-up for Saturday's Dunblane international against Scotland at Murrayfield, Mike Brewer, the New Zealand flanker, has withdrawn from the side and will be replaced by the replacement is the former Scot-

land flanker Dave McIvor. Second Division Moselev have dismissed the former England centre, Barrie Corless, as their playing director. Corless, who had been in charge at The Reddings for only 17 months, has been replaced by the New Zealander Mark Anscombe

Tests against South Africa in Durban on Saturday. Mehrtens has suffered a recurrence of a knee injury while Wilson has burt his right ankie. Wales team, Digest, page 4

Larder picks enthusiasm over Offiah

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Great Britain will tour Papua New Guinea. Fiji and New Zealand this autumn without Martin Offiah, who has been left out because of his lack of enthusiasm for the enterprise. Offiah, who signed for both the London Broncos and Bedford Rughy Union club two weeks ago, will now be free to pursue his resumed career in union. rather than joining the 32-man party on tour.

Although he still has the ability he has not got the enthusiasm for a six-week tour." the Great Britain coach, Phil Larder, said, "It's very important that everyone selected should be committed and enthusiastic." Offiah himself said: "I toured

in 1988, 1990 and 1992 and menot going this time gives a vounger lad a chance he might not have otherwise got. I also have aspirations elsewhere, and the fact that there is no Australian leg at the end of the tour played a part. Phil understood and seemed happy with my explanation. But I explained to him l didn't want to retire internationally. I've got three years with the Broncos and feel I've still got an international future in rugby league.

One player who is both committed and enthusiastic is Offiah's London Brancos teammate. Tulsen Tollett, who has been picked despite spending all but the last few months of his career in Australia.

"He was born in England, he has English parents and English grandparents," Larder said.
"He is as English as I am."

Tollett, in his unmistakably Sydney accent, said that playing for the land of his birth - 23 years ago in Hastings - had been his ambition when he came to England. His form during the Broncos' surge towards a top four

place in Super League justifies his selection and the other surprise choice, Sheffield's Keith Senior, has also earned his place.

The players who can consider themselves unlucky to be left at home are the Bradford centre. Matt Calland, whose form Larder feels has tailed off in the second half of the season, the veteran prop Karl Harrison. and two gifted hookers. Paul Rowley of Halifax and Sheffield's John Lawless. instead, Larder has called up

Lee Jackson, currently playing for the Newcastle Knights in Australia, Another voluntary exile, the Auckland Warriors' Denis Betts, is named as vice-captain to a player for whom he was a guiding influence at Wigan, Andy Farrell. Britain's youngest tour captain leads a party that includes eight uncapped players. It also contains two players who are unlikely to play again this season. Neil Harmon, who is out of contract at Leeds, and lestyn Harris, who has been told to stay

away by Warrington. The highlight of the itinerary is a programme of six matches. including three Tests, in New Zealand. There remains the possibility of tagging on a couple of Tests in Australia, in the unlikely event that Super League there wins its appeal before the end of this month.

force the end of this month.

GREAT BRITAIN TOUR SQUAD (Papers New Gates, Fill and New Scalend, 20 September).

Books, J Bortley (Kanta), G Connolly (Magni, S Edwards Uspin, B Goudding S Helens), I Maris (Marmenn, J Heyen St Helens), F Newber (St Helens), F Reddinals (Magni, J Robinson (Magni, S Springer), F Reddinals (Magni, J Robinson (Magni, K Senser (Steffen), T Sankt (Casted), S Springer (Steffen), T Sankt (Casted), Tollett, London Forwards D Betts (Appl. Magni, K Demonstrate), B Helens, S Senser (Steffen), T Sankt (Casted), Marrors, D Beddinary (Magni, R Demonstrate), Magni, R Casted), Magni, R Casted, Magni, Magni, R Casted, Magni, Magni, R Casted, Magni, Magni,

Tour itinerary, Digest,

Joy and despair for England

Hockey BILL COLWILL

reports from Vught, Netherlands

England's Under-21 squads experienced both triumph and disaster on the opening day of the Four Nations Volvo Masters tournament here yesterday with the women taking the honours in an entertaining 8-4 win against South Africa whilst the men suffered a humiliating 4-0

defeat against Pakistan. A goal down after five minutes. England never got to grips with the quick moving and close passing of the Asian champions and did not seriously pose a threat to them. Indeed, only a series of brave saves by Jon Ébsworth in the English goal de-

Australia's captain, Mark Taylor, vesterday pulled out of the touring side due to visit Sri

Lanka later this month because

of a back injury, as the status of

the tour and the fitness of lead-

ing spinner Shane Warne still remain in doubt.

his role as captain is expected

to be filled by wicketkeeper Jan

Healy, with Steve Waugh the new vice-captain, should the

The Australian Cricket

Board is expected to make a de-

cision on whether to take part

in the two-week, four-nation

tournament on Friday. The ACB's policy requires a marked

improvement in safety condi-

tions on the island as the 13-year

Australia forfeited its World

Cup opener in Colombo in February after a suicide bomb-

ing killed 91 people and injured

1,400 in the capital's main fi-

nancial district. Two weeks ago,

another 70 people died in a commuter train bombing on the

Warne's tour status is subject

outskirts of Colombo.

civil war continues.

tour go ahead.

Taylor has a back injury, and

Cricket

before a crunching tackle by Keith Reesby eight minutes into the second half conceded a penalty stroke and Pakistan's second goal. Two further goals came in the closing minutes.

Jon Royce, the coach, expressed his satisfaction with his defence even though they conceded four goals but was bitterly disappointed with the attack: "It was all huffs and puffs," he said."But then only Mark Pearn will have played before against Pakistan with their unique style of stealing the ball."

In a game of fluctuating for-tunes England's women played some brilliant attacking hockcy mixed with some atrocious defending. They were two goals minutes, the first from the capnied Pakistan further goals tain. Lucy Newcombe, and the

to a three-day fitness test on his injured finger in Brisbane lat-

er this week. Leg-spinner

Warne required regular corti-

sone injections last season and

in late May had surgery around

the knuckle on the fourth finger of his right hand.

also just overcome a sore shoul-

der, and Australia may not

want to risk losing their leading

attacking bowler with a five-Test

series against the West Indies

Mike Gatting is set to return to lead Middlesex in their

County Championship match

against Worcestershire which

starts at Lord's tomorrow, less

than two weeks after the former

England captain underwent

Hampshire opener Jason

Lancy has been ruled out for the

next three weeks after breaking

a bone in his hand. Laney, 23,

suffered the injury while bowl-

The Sussex all-rounder

Robin Martin-Jenkins is suf-

fering from glandular fever and

will miss the rest of the season.

The 20-year-old, son of jour-

nalist and broadcaster Christo-

pher, fell ill last month.

looming in November.

knee surgery.

ing in the nets.

The Victoria state captain has

Injured Taylor out

of Sri Lanka tour

from Melanie Clewlow. South Africa, however, bounced back, taking advantage of some woeful defending, to score four goals in nine minutes. Although Clewlow and Sarah Blanks scored late in the half for a 4-4 interval scoreline, the defence had looked so brittle that

victory seemed far from certain. Helen Grant, a second-half substitute, put England ahead one minute after the interval and then deflected home a free hit from Clewlow for her second. England made sure of the win when Clewlow rammed home a penalty corner shot and New-

combe collected her second The coach, Mary Nevill, said: "I was delighted with our attacking play and our penalty

second brilliantly taken by Pur-dy Miller from a through pass of those days. They have already of those days. They have already had a talking to." In contrast to the high scoring opening women's game the Dutch-German encounter pro-

duced three open play goals,

none of which took advantage of the "no offside" rule being played in a tournament for the first time. The Dutch won 2-1 BNSIAND (man v Pudistant; J Enwards (Tedangton); J Enematt (Centesbury), R Todd (Herard); D Spidel (East Gentsaud), H Colina (East Gentsbury), R Colina (East Gentsbury), B Colina (East Gentsbury), B Ostand (Spidel); S Hamphries (Centesbury), A Boyase (East Gratesaud), Substitutes asset: I Hodges (Bournelle), Menyaret Kocher (Bournalle), R Invine (Teddington).

ISOUTABLE, R. IWINE (TEGENGER).
ENGLAND (Newmen v. Sooth Africa): N Good-bill (Loughborough Studente); C Gilbert ringh-bomt; K Taylor (Akdodgi, Y Knott (Balesan Lecessor), J Bilmson (Olion); K Bowden (Bal-san Lecessor). F Greenhem (Loughborough Stu-dents), L Newcombe (Highwon, capt); S

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

D Gough c Chapple 8 Martin 42
P J Hartley not out 1
C E W Silverwood not out 0
D States (84, 44, nb2) 10
Total (for 8, 60 overs) 274
Felf: 1-28, 2-34, 3-110, 4-190, 5-197, 6-197, 7-272, 8-274, NatWest Trophy Semi-finals Lancashire v Yorkshire Did not bat: R D Stemp.

Bording: Martin 12-2-53-3; Austin 12-1-47-3; Yeses 12-0-55-1; Orapple 12-0-59-0; Wadanson 12-1-56-1 Umphase N T Pleas, and R Julian.

OLD TRAFFORD: Lancastrine by Yearn.

Lancastrine won tess

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JP Crawiny o McCorn b Stemp

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M. Wadarsson o Gough b Harborither

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Steme (62, 1015, W10, 1005)

Total (for 9, 60 overs)

Total (for 9, 60 overs) Felt. 1.26, 2.52, 3-52, 4-197, 5-209, 6-262, 7-289, 8-283, 9-293. Did not bett P J Moron. Bowling: Gauge 12-3-47-3; Sive 0; White 10-0-38-0; Harday 10-1 12-1-55-2; Seven 10-1-47-2.

TORIOSHRE
M D Moren by b Yates
M P Vaughan C Gallen b Martin
O' Blee C Gallen b Waterston
M B Beran c Chapple b Auston
A McGartt b Auston
C Writer e Yates b Auston
TR J Blakey C Lloyd b Martin

Batting

Felt 1-81, 2-151, 3-163, 4-193, 5-214, Did not bet: J E Benjamin, & P Aufen, M P Bick nell, R M Pearson. nel, R.M. Pearson.

Bowling: for: 11-2-69-1; Wittams 12-0-43-1; Iran.
8-2-33-0; Law 9-1-37-0; Such 12-0-50-0; Grayson 8-0-47-2.

tras (DL 108, w23, rb15) bal (for 6, 56.4 oyers)

Other results 55; J E Hundron (5-99).

MEMOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (Finst day of two) Netherdetic Cumberland 200 for 7 (0 J Pearson 75ro) and 50 for 0; Suffolit 165 (0 W Randall 54).

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who had previously coached in Gloucester coaching director Richard Hill, has signed the former England Under-21 scrumhalf Simon Johnson from his old club, Bath, Johnson, now 23, recently returned from South Africa where he played in England's three games in the Students World Cup. The New Zealand winger Jeff Wilson and stand-off Andrew Mehrtens have been injured in training and are doubtful for the first of three

THE INDEPENDENT

What do you do with a drunken sailor?

BEING THERE

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At Cowes Week, it seems there's really no choice but to join them. **Andy Martin** drinks it all in

had been in Cowes for barely five minites, and I hadn't even set sail yet, and was already sick as a dog. And yet I had cast off from Southampton as swashbucklingly as Errol Flynn, I would have given long odds against a shipboard romance flourishing between the mainland and the Isle of Wight. But the British Rail hydrofoil the Red Jet was advertised as a "high-speed service", and it all happened on fast forward. Her name was

Even as I strode down the gangplank, I couldn't help noticing she held a copy of Milan Kundera's The Unbearable Lightness of Being in one hand. "I'm reading it for the second time round," she confided, as I took the seat next to her on the starboard side. "Have you read his essay on The Art of the Novel?" I countered, "or the early Laugh able Loves?"

Lucy was a sailor. She had been drafted in at a late stage after her ship had lost a man overboard (they were sponsored by Bombay Sapphire gin and had been takously). She even taught sailing. I revealed that my knowledge of life on the ocean wave was limited to surfing and the occasional Sea Link ferry. So she kindly offered me Lesson 1: "Never hang on to the main-sheet. You'll capsize." I never made it to

As we disembarked at West Cowes, she was shanghaied by a smooth-tanned, weather-beaten kind of cove called Justin. He was Justin and I was just out. Had a passing octopus wrapped a tentacle about Justin's neck at that precise moment, I doubt it off. But the trouble with sea monsters is they're never there when you need them. cuses bit, intent as I was on zipping at the Come to think of it, Justin was a bit of an time. octopus himself, the way he was wrapping himself around Lucy. I was sunk, going down I've come across, what with steering bewith all hands on board. But it turned out

to be my lucky day after all.

Over at the Yacht Haven, I hove to at the Gents. As I dumped my gear beside one of the washstands, I couldn't help noticing in the mirror a thin, weedy stubbly customer standing at the long collective urinal but looking over his shoulder at me. He kept on looking I messed around at the sink for a while. He was still there. It seemed like a long time to be standing about with your fly open. But, hey, free country, I said to myself, working up the courage to wander over to the trough. All the same, just to be on the safe side, I parked myself up the

"Hallo," he said. It wasn't actually "Hello, sailor", but it was close.

"What's your name?" tal line, but this was my best chance. Only left in so much of a hurry I forgot the extense. I left in so much of a hurry I forgot the extense and more of the cowes of any one night? I would be there, she would be there.



Cowes was as perilous a harbour as ever tween the Scylla of getting sand kicked in your eye and the Charybdis of an unso-licited close encounter. Thus it was that

You would think these ceaseless revellers had all just returned from a round-the-world trip on a teetotal yacht

I made full steam ahead to the Skandia Life hospitality marquee for a lifesaver. Hope came on the end of a cocktail stick when someone told me that the party to be seen at was the Oceanworld Crew Ball Two always wanted to write, "I made my excuses and left". I've imagined other circumstances that would justify that immor-

Paul Bertie of Oceanworld kindly let me in. He promised me a five-man-high pyramid on the dance floor by the end of the night, but the most I saw was a girl horsing around on someone's shoulders, and my hopes were similarly deflated. Justin wasn't there. but neither was Lucy. Or maybe they both

were, carousing unremarked among the hundreds of sailors kitted out in floppy green and yellow Viking suits. The event was billed as the "unrefined crew ball", and the only refined thing about it was the alcohol (Mount Gay gin was the co-spon-

One T-shirt (one of the many, outnumbering blazers by about a thousand to one) summarised the mood of the evening: "Revel Without A Pause". You'd think, from the sight of the im-mense pitchers of beer, these ceaseless

revellers had all just returned from a round-the-world trip on a teetotal yacht. Towards the end of the evening, by the time bodies began to be manhandled out and flung down on the lawn - and the ones that were left upright were staggering and slobbering - another T-shirt headline began to seem more appropriate: "Mad Cowes Disease".

The next morning down at the Yacht

Haven, I heard it said that the course at then after wobbling around at sea, you nat-Cowes was not clearly marked out. Nonsense. No one I met had any difficulty nav-igating their way from ball to bar to beer tent. Somewhat overshadowed by her neighbours - Glenfiddich, Teachers, Young's - the woman at the Nicorette tent

said what sailors really needed was a patch over their arm to stop them drinking. I suspect a breathalyser would have put paid to the hopes of many. Mystified as to why it is sailors should drink so much. I did some research at the beer tent.

Behind the bar, Wendy reckoned that the beer tent at the Yacht Haven saw more business in a week than the whole of Cowes during the rest of the year. Her theory was that the salt dries you out so you have to replenish your liquid stores regularly. Jennie, who shrewdly pointed out these old salts didn't replenish their Tropicana or their Britvic stores too frequently, maintained that the sailing was just an excuse for the drinking. Wendy thought maybe it was something to do with keep-ing away the scurvy or the beriberi. And maybe seasickness, too. It seemed logical: the sea is rocking and rolling all round you so you have all this liquid sloshing about inside you to maintain the equilibrium. And

urally would want to drink yourself into a stupor once you hit land so you could wobble up the street, too.

I finally put to sea on the press boat, and touch paper. soon I was all at sea. I wasn't the only one, though. With hundreds of boats sailing every

Jennie said the sailing was just an excuse for the drinking. Wendy thought it was something to do with keeping away the scurw

which way, it looked like chaos, "It is chaos," one Captain Haddock-type admitted, "Out of every 10 competitors, only five maximum have a clue what they're supposed to be doing." After a few collisions and bundles of near-misses in the high winds, the organisers wisely removed the firework burge from in front of the Royal Yacht Squadron and towed it off to East Cowes, out of harm's way, until the official start time. The

barge was big and stationary but not so big and stationary that one of the more recreational of the sailors couldn't smash into it and set a premature spark to the blue

There's no question that sailing can be pretty rugged. I wondered out loud why the Army and the RAF had yachts down at Cowes and why all these guys weren't in the Navy instead, thereby saving the taxpayer a packet. But one suave and muscular homore assured me that it was all good training. "You

can go out in tanks, but you're just pretending. But spend three consecutive days in a Force 9 swell on a J24 in the Channel – as we did a few months ago - and it's really tough." Thus spoke Justin. For it was he, I had

finally run into Lucy in the Haven. She had spent the night bunked in Justin's heat. It was all part of the training - good for teamwork. I began to understand why Dr Johnson said that any man who has not been a soldier or put to sea feels a sense of regret. And I think I now know the answer to the mystery of why sailors go about under this moral imperative to get tanked up. They drink to forget the unbearable light-

Invasion of the slugfest makes baseball tedious

Never did I think that a recent and low a game, and the homer is heavunabashed convert to the game of baseball would utter the words. But here goes. I am bored with home runs. And not merely bored. Pounded by them. Knocked dizzy and brainless by them, to the point of dreaming of an old-fashioned pitchers' duel, one of those virtually ex-tinct 1-0 or 2-1 games where a lucky single can make the difference between triumph and despair. This year a plague of homers has descended on the land, baseball scores read like football games, and in my humble opinion America's national pastime is the poorer for it.

Logically, it should not be so. After all, the home run is one of the great thrills of all sport – a prodigy of arm and eye that enables a hitter armed with a bat less than three inches wide at its broadest point and just 0.4sec at his disposal to pick up a cricket-sized ball travelling at him at 80 or 90mph and rocket it back in the opposite direction, into the stands 350ft away. The spectacle is

breathtaking.

If you can't get to the ballpark, radio, not television, is the way to fol-

en for the commentators, or play-byplay announcers as they call them here. The words, wafting half-heard from a radio somewhere on a warm July evening, are among America's indelible summer sounds: "A long drive... deep to centrefield... back, back, real deep... wave it goodbye, this one is g-o-o-one." Surely you can't get enough of it, can you? This year you

The precise reasons for the power explosion are a matter of argument among baseball sages, and more of that in a moment. But the figures speak for themselves. The eternal struggle between batter and pitcher has fluctuated over the years. But the hitting surge of the mid-1990s is without precedent. Two-thirds of the way through the regular season. baseball is on a pace to produce over 5,100 homers, way above the previous record of 4,458 in 1987. True, the nitpickers will point out, only 26 teams were in the major leagues then, compared with 28 today. But in 1993, the only full post-expansion season played, the 28 teams managed only 4,030 homers. This year's singgers are **SPORT IN ANOTHER** COUNTRY

Rupert Cornwell, in Washington, yeams for the pitching duels of summers past

25 per cent more prolific, and some of the sport's most sacred records

With his 61 homers in 1961, Roger Maris expunged the single season record of his New York Yankee forerunner Babe Ruth from the record book. Now Maris is in danger of becoming history. Half a dozen players are threatening his mark, among them Mark McGwire of the Oakland A's, Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs. Mo Vaughan of the Boston Red Sox and Albert Belle of the

Cleveland Indians, Never have more than two players hit 50 homers in a season. This year five or six could.

Some 20 could reach the 40-homer over a six month season of 162 mark, compared with a previous record of eight, while three clubs -Baltimore, Oakland and Seattle - are on track to beat the Yankees' singleseason record of 240 in 1961, the year

of Roger Maris and Mickey Mantle. The explanations have multiplied with the homers themselves. Hitters, it is said, are more powerful and bet-ter trained than ever - which is true. Others blame the friendlier dimensions of the new downtown ballparks in cities like Baltimore, Cleveland and Denver. Umpires are criticised for shrinking the strike zone to lit-tle larger than a G-string, necessitating more of those fast balls down the middle upon which home run hit-

ters feast. Then there is is the old chestnut of the "juiced" ball, allegedly produced with its inner layers wrapped tighter to make it carry farther. That theory at least may be The most plausible reason is poor

pitching, traceable to the 1993 ex-

ity pitching must be spread around 28 teams instead of 26, a thinning games. But, one may ask, why does not the same argument apply to the

Either way, the game is changing. The \$2bn (£1,29bn) a year baseball industry is happy enough with the trend: after all, it argues, the fans love a slugfest, and baseball needs all the love it can get after the unforgotten and still unforgiven lunacy of the players' strike of 1994/95. In fact, neither attendances nor television ratings have noticeably picked up since the onset of the home run glut.

The game meanwhile - especially in the slugger's paradise of the American League - is losing some of its subtler skills of base-running. No one steals home plate anymore: why take risks to manufacture one run when a single blast into the stands can bring you four? Which leads me to a final piece of advice in this era of homers by the handful. If you're in America this summer and contemplating a visit to a

SPORTING VERNACULAR

No 9 FRIENDLY

Three images from the "friendly" encounter between Newcastle and Manchester United at Wembley: Four Newcastle supporters grab a Manchester (an and swing him out over the Tube tracks.

 A Manchester supporter (male) and Newcastle fan (female) take turns to beliew "Red army" and 'Toon army" at each other in rhythmic antiphony, noses inches apart and faces distorted with passion. A Newcastle fan sidles up behind red-shirted supporters and spits expertly at their heads. He has done this so much that he is running out of saliva, which means no one notices and he does not get the fight

he is clearly anxious to provoke. The first two, almost incredibly, were jokey expressions of entity which quickly resolved into mutu-al backslapping and laughter - the third was a nasty utterance of real malevolence. But, given the intensity of the rivalry expressed, who could confidently guarantee that the former might not tip over into the

presence of these roaring exchanges

have a slightly strained look, a reminder that when primates grin it usually means they're frightened. On the pitch you see similar am-

biguities: Cantona wrenches an opponent to the ground, arousing the car-splitting indignation of the New-castle crowd. What's "friendly" about that, you wonder, before Cantona, after looking suitably contrite for the referee, walks over to clasp his victim's shoulders, a gesture much closer to self-exculpation than it is to confession. "Look, we're friends," it says, "I can't have fouled him."

In sporting terms, of course, a friendly is simply an encounter where the result doesn't really count ("point-less" might be a punning alternative). Watching a fattack might be a punning alternative). friendly", with its theatre of attack and retaliation, it's possible to wonder whether the unique sort of tinfriendliness" fans display to each other offers one answer - a demonstration of how sport provides a place where aggression, ruge and the will to defeat your opponent utterlatter at any moment? Perhaps that is why the smiles people wear in the you're lucky, at least.

Wenger for Arsenal then Weah

Football

CLIVE WHITE AND

Arsène Wenger, the Frenchman whom the Football Association has sought to woo as its new technical director, is expected to be appointed manager of Arsenal today in succession to Bruce Rioch, who was dismissed on Monday. With a missed on Monday. With a Italy where is valued in the name like his some would say £10m bracket. it was a formality.

An added bonus for Arsenal is that the former Monaco coach could well succeed where Rioch failed in luring George Weah, the World Footballer of the Year, to Highbury. The Liberian striker, who plays for Milan, is a protegé of Wenger.

Wenger moved into pole po-sition for the job yesterday after doubts surfaced about the readiness of Johan Cruyff to return to the game following his dismissal by Barcelona this summer. Like another candidate, the former England coach Terry Venables, Cruyff will be busy with litigation next month, suing the Spanish club for wrongful dismissal. But Arsenal still seem bent on going

Continental. Wenger, a close associate of Glenn Hoddie, the England coach, following their time to-gether in the Principality, has resisted the Football Association's overtures because of his unwillingness to take up a desk job. He enjoys working with players and was a major influence in Hoddle's decision to move into coaching

when his career ended. Wenger is now in Japan

club with whom Gary Lineker ended his career, but has apparently indicated to Arsenal that he would be willing to move to London when his contract expires in mid-September.

Wenger and Weah have been close since the Frenchman picked the big African out of obscurity and took him to Monaco where he lived in Wenger's house. He eventually moved to

Rioch had been working on signing Weah, who is also a tar-get of Manchester United. Weah told the Scot through a third party that he would like to come to England but not before next year when he plans to quit Milan. However, Wenger's arrival could accelerate those plans. The signing of Gianluca Vialli and Fabrizio Ravanelli has proved anything is possible and Weah is, after all, 29.

Weah is also friendly with the Arsenal striker, Ian Wright, who in yesterday's tabloids had described Rioch's hopes of signing a player such as Weah as "impossible".

Wenger's first signing for Ar-senal, however, is likely to be a shade less ambitious. There were rumours yesterday that a little-known French midfielder called Remy Garde was about to be signed on a free transfer from Strasbourg even before Wenger has put pen to paper

Arsenal fans will not be the only ones disappointed that Cruyff no longer seems a front runner. City experts estimated that the Dutchman's signing would have added £28m to the



Milan's George Weah (left) and Marco Simone try to force the ball past Bayern Munich's goalkeeper, Sven Schener, and defenders Strunz and Babbel in a pre-season tournament staged in Berlin's Olympic Stadium. The defenders saved the goal, and Munich won the tournament

Players warned strike will close clubs

Exeter City, one of the small clubs struggling for financial survival, have claimed that a players' strike in the Nationwide League called by the Profes-sional Footballers' Association could mean the end of the road for a number of their kind.

Stuart Dawe, Exeter's football director, said yesterday: "It's all very well talking about the PFA getting more money to redistribute, but what if the poorer clubs are forced to the wall by a strike?

"If we folded, there would be no club to pay the players' wages. We had a big scare last year and nearly went out of busi-

need just now, when it looks as don paying the players' union a though we are beginning to get 10 per cent levy from television back on our feet.

"There will always be greedy people, but what about the ones who aren't? The ones who are struggling to keep football alive in the outposts?

"If the clubs did have to fold, where would the PFA find clubs to employ their Dawe's claim came as play-

ers throughout the Football League's three divisions were heing warned against strike action. The PFA has said it will hallot members on whether to strike in response to the Foot-

screening rights.

While the players are expected to back strike action, League assistant secretary Andy Williamson described any such vote as "an act of blind faith". "If the PFA are allowed to

ballot their members it would be naïve of us to think that they will do anything other than support the union's call for strike action as an act of faith," Williamson said.

"But it would be an act of blind faith because the Football League clubs' financial situation is a precarious one and they are the people who pay the players'

The Republic of Ireland man-

ager, Mick McCarthy, has re-

solved his disagreement with

Manchester United's Roy

Keane by including him in an

McCarthy was furious with Keane for missing six end-of-

season internationals last term.

"I spoke to Roy on Saturday

wages - not the PFA." League officials are confident, meanwhile, that they will secure a High Court injunction to prevent the players' ballot.

"You can only strike if it affects the terms of employment of individuals and, clearly, this dispute does not," Williamson said. "The dispute is about funding the union, which is a

different thing.
"Our contribution from the TV money over the years has been for three specific purposes: benevolent grants for footballers who have fallen on hard times; towards education grants for the life after football; and for insurance arrangements when

McCarthy and Keane make up

at the Manchester United team

players have to give up football early due to injury.

"The PFA is not allowed to use the cash for anything else but, as at June 1995, they had accumulated £8.2m. What we've said to them is, 'If you can show as that you need more money for those specified purposes, then our contribution would increase.' But there is no indication that they need

League and PFA officials are due to meet on 23 August, but Williamson is not optimistic. The PFA seem intent on raising the temperature of this ar-

Bankies plotting Rangers' downfall

Clydebank's full-time footballers - both of them - were yesterday plotting one of the Scottish Coca-Cola Cup's biggest upsets from a portable dressing-room outside a Glasgow rugby club.
The cash-strapped First Di-

vision club that reared the late Davie Cooper are now homeless and struggling for survival in the post-Bosman era. Tonight they face the millionaires of Rangen at Firhill, seeking only their second competitive victory over

the Ibrox giants.

April 12 1986 was the red letter day for the Bankies as they recorded a 2-1 Premier League win over Rangers at their then home, New Kilbowic Park.

Clydebank are waiting to hear the result of a planning inquiry into the sale of their stadium to a supermarket, with the club sharing with Dumbarton for the new season and training at West of Scotland Rugby Club. A playing staff that once had around 16 full-timers has been cut to just two.

"We had to go back part-time and would have been doing that even if we'd received the money for the stadium," said Clydebank secretary, Ian Steedman. "It is getting harder and harder to operate clubs below the top flight."

Clydebank's chances of cash-

ing in on tonight's tie have even been cut with capacity at Partick Thistie's Firhill ground reduced from 21,000 to 14,000.

For the coach, Brian Wright, who has also been forced to go part-time, the only solace on offer is that Rangers will be without some £20m worth of talent as a full team of players are unavailable to Walter Smith for various reasons – fitness, suspension and international duty.

The absentees include Paul Gascoigne, Brian Laudrup, Joachim Bjorklund, Alex Cleland, Alan McLaren, David Robertson, Erik Bo Andersen, Craig Moore, Gordon Durie, Ian

Ferguson and Stephen Wright. Elsewhere, Celtic make the short trio to Clyde's Broadwood home in Cumbernauld for their second round tie minus two key defenders. Alan Stubbs is banned after his red card in Saturday's 2-2 draw at Aberdeen. la, have been offered a World Likewise Tosh McKinlay, who was punished after the match

had ended. Hearts will play in front of a three-sided Tynecastle when cup experts Stenhousemuir come to Edinburgh. The Scottish Cup runners-up could include recent signing Neil McCann.

ness. This is the last thing we ball League's decision to abancoaching Gramous Eight, the value of the club's shares. Leeds make official move for Sinclair

Leeds United, who have been linked with the Queen's Park Rangers winger Trevor Sinclair for most of this year, yesterday made an official bid for the England Under-21 player.

Bill Fotherby, the Leeds chairman, said an offer, believed to be under £5m, had been made, and the Yorkshire club were waiting for a response. "Our offer has gone in and, when QPR's chief executive returns from holiday, he will presumably consider it," he said.

Howard Wilkinson has just spent a club record £4.5m on

Robbie Regan will make his first

defence of the World Boxing

Organisation bantamweight

title in Cardiff on 19 October

have had to contend with weeks

of uncertainty as the voluntary

defence was delayed because of

Regan, 28, with a record of 17 wins from 22 starts with two

defeats, reckons a return to his

favourite venue will tip the bal-

against Drew Docherty. Both Regan and Docherty

objections to the venue.

Lee Sharpe from Manchester likely to be settled by a tribunal £3.2m signing from the German United but, with Tony Yeboah after the clubs could not agree champions. Borussia Dortfacing an exploratory knee operation, he is short of strikers.

United finance director, Robin Launders, to move to Elland Road. Launders will become chief executive of Caspian's at Port Vale on Saturday. subsidiary, Leeds United Hold-

The Newcastle United deagreed terms with Blackburn

ance in his favour. "It took me

a long time to get a world title.

I also know what it's like not to

be a world champion. I know

champion Scott Welch has with-

drawn from his nomination to

The British heavyweight

which I prefer."

on an amount.

Leeds' new owners, Caspian, at Bolton and this could spark Education and Employment, have pulled off a major coup by a £3m transfer chase for his sigpersuading the Manchester nature. The Serbian midfield be cleared in time. player has failed to fit into the club's pre-season plans and will be absent when Bolton kick-off

fender Robbie Elliott has cleared for their Premiership Rovers, but his transfer fee is Saturday. The midfielder, a

Liverpool are facing a race against time to have the Czech international Patrik Berger match at Middlesbrough on recovery from damaged back

mund, is waiting for a work per-Sasa Curcic is on his way out mit from the Department of but the club are confident he will

> Rob Jones, the Liverpool and England defender, admitted yesterday that he feared his career might be over prior to going to hospital for a scan on his back this week. Jones will be out for at least three more months. but expects to make a complete vertebrae.

including a three-match tour of the United States, for which the midfielder had been named as captain, but he has now forgiv-

enstein on 31 August

hotel prior to Sunday's Charity Shield final against Newcastle, and we had an open and frank discussion. I told Roy what initial 33-man squad for the World Cup qualifier in Liechtapologised," McCarthy said.

There was no such good news for the England manager, Glenn Hoddle, however, as the prospects of having Paul Gascoigne in his first match in charge appeared to be fading fast. The 29-year-old has an Achilles injury and is yet to be in any match action this season. His return now

International counterment in New Haven, Connecticut with a 7-5, 6-4 victory over Magnus Lensson of Sweden.
PROF PEN INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT (New Haven, Consecticut) Fast round: D Vacak (Cr. Rep.) bt V Spadest (US) 7-6-6-3, A Metweder Almh in S. Saman (F) 6-18-44. M Phoppoussts (Aus) bt K Cartson (Den) 4-8-7-6-6-4; C Adams (US) bt S Campbell (US) 6-4-6-2; G Rusdisk (Gel) bt M Larsson (Swe) 7-6-6-4; I Gorteran (Swe) bt N Mun (Swe) 6-3-6-7; Housisk (Short (Swe) 7-7-7-7-7-7-7-8) buggets (Sp) bt J Elbrigh (Neth) 6-3-6-1; M Tilstom (Swe) bt Schalbert (Swe) 6-3-6-1; M Tilstom (Swe) bt S Schalbert (Neth) 6-3-6-1; M Tilstom (Neth) 6-3-6-

3-6 6-2 8-2.

RCA. CHAMPIONSHIPS (Indisespolis) First round: Singles: P Note for Rep is H Aras Mon 6-3 4-6 6-2: T Woodbridge (Aust to 5 Draper Aust) 6-3 6-4; Troyol RO In It B Karbacher (Gen 6-2 6-0: M Hadad (Col) br J Grabb (US) 6-3 2-6 6-0: S Pencosonde Rb br J Stark (US) 6-3 2-5 0-5; S Pencosonde Rb br J Stark (US) 6-3 7-6; D Johnson (US) br J Hasas (Gen) 6-7 7-8; D Johnson (US) br J Hasas (Gen) 6-7 7-8; D Johnson (US) br J Hasas (Gen) 6-7 7-8; D Johnson (US) br J Hasas (Gen) 6-7 7-6; C Z Caradi (Br br Sharon (CTan) 7-5 6-8-7 5-5; C Z Brad (Carl) br br Sharon (CTan) 7-5 6-8-7 5-5; C Z Brad (Carl) From (CS) and G Raoux (Fr) br S Davis and Throman (US) 6-3 7-6.

looks likely to be a week on Saturday, when Rangers meet Dundee United at Ibrox, 48 hours after Hoddle names his squad for England's World Cup opener in Moldova on 1 September. France's Euro 96 outcasts,

Enc Cantona and David Gino Cup lifeline by the French coach, Aimé Jacquet, who said in an article in the French sports newspaper L'Equipe the players were in his plans for the qualifiers. "I'm not stubborn, or an idiot or crazy. I am here to make the best team possible," Jacquet said.

Football

round: Cove Rangers v Fraserburgh: Rothes Keath; Buckle Thaste v Hundy; Penemead v De veronvale; Lossemouth v Forres Mechanics 7.30 urkess stated SCOTIISH COCA-COLA CUP SECOND ROUND Clyde v Cettic (8.0) Clydebank v Rangers veromale; Lossemouth v Forres Mechanics; Azim County v Eign Cdy; Fort William v Cloch-necusidin; Wick Academy v Bross Rangers. PRE-SEASON TRUENDILLES: Boston Und v Not-linghem Forrest XI; Cheadle v Sootopart XI,

Other sports



Regan set for WBO defence

32 PAGE SOCCER BETTING **GUIDE**

This Friday only in

The Sporting Life

AMERICAN LEARUE: Toronto 5 Boston 1; Checi-to White Sor 3 New York Yankes; 2 (10 milings); Teas 7 Detroe D; Cleveland 5 Caldonia 4; Cal-lone 11 Mignesota 1; Kareas Cty 10 Seattle 4. Postponed; Belimmar y Milindules. Pastponent Hamiltone v monaute.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Los Angless & Cincinnati S.;
Nortreal S Hauszon I.; Chicago Cuba 11 New York
Liets 1. Poutponed: Philadelphia v Atlanta.

Bowles

Women's World CHAMPONSHIPS (Learning-ton Spa) Shafe rounds Stugies Section One: Zertained (C Repair-Millarms) for Lemma (M Line) 15:22; metain of the Repair-Millarms) for Lemma (M Line) 15:22; metain of the Repair of t fight European champion Zelijko Mavrovic, of Croatia. Clifton Mitchell is now installed as the official challenger. Welch's withdrawal leaves him free for a WBO title attempt against Henry Akin-

Boxing Japan's Keiji Yamaguchi has retained his World Boxing Association junior flyweight ode by beating the former champion, Carlos Munito of Panama, on a unan-

imous points decision in Osaka. Equestrianism Land Rover will be the title sponsor for ionships at Gatcombe Park, which run

TODAY'S NUMBER

1,000-1

The odds offered by Ladbrokes against Ivan Lendi, the former world No 1 tennis player, winning his first professional golf tourna-ment, the Czech Open, which begins in Marianske Lazne tomorrow.

SPORTING DIGEST Stefan Events, of Belgium, had his two wins at the British round of the 250cc world championship returned to him af-

en him.

Football The Port Vale striker Lee Glover, 26, will become Rotherham United's record signing when the former Nottingham Forest player joins the South Yorkshire club for £150,000 today.

Brighton have been ordered to pay an initial fee of £80,000 for the Rochdale midfielder Jason Peake, with further instalments of up to £25,000 efter 40 appearences. Rochdale will receive 20 per cent of any profit should the players he sold askin.

Hibernan have signed the Scottish Un-der-21, striker Barry Lavety from St Mir-ren for a fee in the region of £200,000. Ranth Rovers have been told to pay £120,000 for the defender Paul Browne from Aston Villa by a transfer tribunal. Ranth had offered £50,000 while Villa had wanted in the region of £500,000. A Football League tribunal yesterday de-cided Southempton must pay an initial fee of £250,000 for the Stoke midfielder

Graham Potter. Charlton Athleuc have signed the Old-harn midfield player Mark Brennan on

a free transfer

STORY

ENGLAND TEAM (Home Internationals, Moray, 11-13 September): M Blackery (Hoyling), W Bladdon (Kentenchi), M Carver (Mest Kert), L Center (Besconsfecial, P Feature Outdonsfeld), D Lucas (Worksop), M Reynard (Moseley), K Wellbank (Peintench), S Woldensfelders (Belssol and Caltri), Non-travelling reserves: J Ross (Non-International Peintench (Prudhoe), P Melson (Prudhoe), Non-jairping explain: P McErcy.

Hockey

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FA Carling Premiership

Marticonwise Football Leag
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18 Southerd v Transport
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aum v Tomerskam ery v Nottungham Forest ...

ter the international Motorcycle Federation upheld his appeal yesterday. Events' June victories were revoked for using alegal fuel but a B test indicated he was within FIM standards.
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ter the international Motorcycle Feder-

RELIGIOY LESSIGNES
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2 No. Continuent M Honde / Mandel) J Metal

The French round the world yachtsman, Bruno Payron, yesterday morning brought his 85ft catamaran, Disnayland Exptorer, over the finish line at St Malo, France, to complete a passage from Cowes in 12hr 1min 24sec, beating the existing record by 4hrs 13min 54sec set by the ritish mani yacht Longobarda in July.

Alex Higgins, the 47-year-old former w champion, was yestarday beaten 5-1 by Paul Sweeny in the fifth round of the Regal Welsh Open at the Norbreck Cas-te Hotel, Blackpool, Higgins has now been eliminated from all four tourna-ments he has contested this season.

Greg Rusedski eased into the second round of the £700,000 Pilot Pen

20 Back-poor Unexternated.
22 Brussel Rosess o Peterburd.
23 Brussel Rosess o Peterburd.
23 Bursy o Bressiand.
24 Comer y Spackand.
25 Galleguarn v Bressiand.
25 Galleguarn v Bressiand.
27 Melanda o Witsarbarn.
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28 Pyrmouth v York.

Third Division

7-5 3-6 6-2; N. Dereva (Rela) bt N. Kamuta (Lapan) 6-4 6-2.

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Lisani 6-1.

Lisan WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS FORECAST Bell's Scottish Premier Division Scottlish First Division Also playing (not on corporate): Scottlish Sec-and Division: Any or Harmiter, Clyde v Benatic, Durhisman v Stantest; Lungistan v Quaen of the South, Sentousemur v Beston, Scottlagh Third Division: About Roses v Forte; Acoustic v Rose County, Tempore Collection, Decision, Pro-

(CB) and G Rainux (Fr) bt S Davis and T Maron (US) 6-3 7-6.

ACURA CLASSIC WOMEN'S TOURNMARENT (Nanfrathabe Baseh, California) Singles Bret. 12-6 7-6. It fausant from the Audio (US) 6-7.

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صكدًا من الاحل

Mercinical Contract and workers a see Corp Late Const. gy for the ladience Pattern San Land

Football Club the other day. Rob-

bie Earle, a super-fit 31-year-old, was

told how he could maintain those lung-bursting runs through another

season, while Vinnie Jones discov-

ered that with more carbohydrates

and less protein, he could become

Diet sheets and healthy living?

Science never really figured highly

in the Wimbledon culture. There was

a time when the Crazy Gang would

turn up its nose at these new fangled

ideas, turn up the volume on the

ghetto-blaster and prepare to turn

over another big-name Saturday

But times have changed and stay-

ing involved in what is now regard-

ed as the world's finest league

requires that Wimbledon pay heed

to those changes. Jones, an hon-

ourable professional when he is not

head-banging opponents, made sure

all the younger players listened to

Wimbledon's rawness has not dis-

appeared completely, but things are

more refined now than was the case

'Every player that

comes here is

taking a step up

and possesses a

hunger to become

a better player'

10 years ago. It was in 1986 that those

at the classy end of football's main street were forced to take note of the

upstarts muscling in on their patch. Only a decade after they had been

elected to the Football League, the

unlikely heroes from south-west

London were up there with the big boys, promoted to Division One.

breathed. Wimbledon would not be

around for long, they would surely be one-season wonders. The pundits have fallen into that same trap every

year since that 1986-87 campaign

when, under Dave Bassett's inspi-

rational leadership, the newcomers led the table after five games and fin-ished a highly creditable sixth.

salutes the capabilities of the little

man if he brings spirit and determination to his work. Wimbledon be-

It is a remarkable story, one that

Thankfully, the rich and famous

ODDOnent.

a more effective performer.

Street, Contract

· 11......

Speedway





Hidden Personality

Qualities? The highest, which have persuaded selection panels to send for him in the national interest, despite everything. The types he has to answer to don't come across many who pose naked for women's magazines and appear on TV in bed with Paula Yates (albeit when fully clothed, and at breakfast time).

coming soon... 5



Ten years after: and the gang is crazier than ever

They were expected to be relegated straight away, but after a decade in the top flight, Wimbledon kick off on Saturday as part of the furniture. Trevor Haylett on the hard work behind the fairy-tale

lieve they have never gained proper recognition for their achievements, but then they would say that, wouldn't they? They have a problem with perceived persecution. Remove the prejudice, however, and even their most vehement adversary would concede that they have a point.

In today's terms, a "Wimbledon" would be the equivalent of Stevenage Borough playing against Manchester United in the Premiership by 2007. Stevenage would then, in the succeeding 10 years, not only manage to hold on to their status but also pick up the FA Cup and qualify for Europe through their League

It is the stuff of fairy-tales, but if Wimbledon managed it, why not also the likes of the Vauxhall Conference champions? It is those who have done it who are convinced it will not happen again. The Premier League breakaway, sponsorship, television deals, the Bosman repercussions, they all conspire to widen the gap between those at the top and those down below," says Lawrie Sanchez, the man whose Wembley header against Liverpool gave Wimbledon the FA Cup in 1988 and set every non-league

side dreaming the impossible.
"We were at Stevenage the other night and they were asking us what the secret was. With the changes that have happened already in the game and those that will follow, I can't see any other club doing what we did. As for us, it is going to be that much harder to stay in the Premiership for

the next 10 years. As the manager battling every day against the economic illogicality of Wimbledon's survival, Joe Kinnear would be the first to support that assessment. He has forgone a summer holiday in order to scour Europe in an attempt to join the fashion for foreign flair, but he was forced to return home empty-handed. "The Shearer deal has done us no

favours," Kinnear says. "Everyone abroad has run away with the idea that all English clubs have that sort of money to splash around. I was quoted £3m-plus for only average players in Russia and Scandinavia. When I protested they replied: But you are from England, you pay £15m for players, don't insult us with

your low offers'." Despite the multi-million pound bounty arriving from the next Sky

Television contract, money remains

the biggest obstacle for Wimbledon, who have just renewed their tenancv agreement with Crystal Palace for another five years. On average gates which, despite rising sharply last season, still struggled to exceed 13,000, ways balance precariously, which is why the club's owner. Sam Hammam, so actively pursued a move to

That now looks unlikely, so the old methods of keeping the club viable buying players cheaply, selling them on for a nice profit - will be maintained, as will Wimbledon's at-

Dublin or Cardiff.

tention to a thriving youth policy (three FA Youth Cup semi-final appearances in the last five years). Wimbledon's one major summer acquisition, the £1.9m Millwall fullback Ben Thatcher, more than dou-

More importantly, it is the first time the close season did not signal any departures from the club. Thatcher is a typical Wimbledon buy. Every player that comes here is taking a step up and possesses a hunger to become a better player. Kinnear says. "All of them have experienced the hardships of life. They see what

casion, it has brought disciplinary Dean Holdsworth, the leading scorer for the past four seasons, says that while the Crazy Gang might not be so crazy now, old habits remain. We used to get up to scrapes in the old days that we couldn't get away with now because of the publicity surrounding the game. We are a bit more cultured, maybe not so wild. but the atmosphere, the camaraderie

we have done for others, those like

Warren Barton, who we took from

Maidstone, converted into a player

good enough for England and who

hen moved to Newcastle for £4m."

joining. They are qualities successive

players have put forward through the

cars to explain what makes Wim-

Thatcher cited "team spirit and at-

s and prome reasons for

is as good as ever," he says, Dave Beasant, a Plough Lane veteran through nine seasons and the goalkeeper whose departure to Newcastle signalled the break-up of the 1988 Wembley winners, recalled the early times with affection. "I remember a time we were on an endof-season tour to France, staying in dormitories and fed up that we had only got a £5 rise in our contracts. We stuck Dave Bassett against a wall, put a mattress in front of him and then laid into it with our fists until he agreed to give us a bit more. I think that carned us another £1.50. We stuck together like the Three Musketeers, all for one and one for

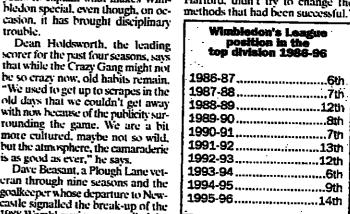
Sanchez explains the bonds that tie together successive Wimbledon teams by relating the story of two new recruits who arrived in the summer and for whom the Wimbledon way New decade, new formation: Dave Bassett with his squad at Plough Lane (above). Joe Kinnear's proved an eye-opener. "We were side (top) has a more relaxed outlook after 10 years at the top Photographs: Herbie Knott

wards both said how amazed they were that all the players stayed out late at night and all worked hard the next day. No matter what time they got in, everyone was up at Sam for

"During the long training runs, no one dared drop out because they didn't want to be seen to be weakening. At other clubs, they said there would always be one or two who fell by the wayside. Not here."

Apart from his Wembley winner, Sanchez also had the distinction of scoring the goal at Hudderstield in May 1986 that clinched promotion to the First Division. He ended his career at Swindon before taking his first job in management with Sligo Rovers. A year ago, the offer of a Wimbledon return as reserve team

boss was too good to turn down. "It is only when you go away that you realise how much Wimbledon are revered by clubs of a similar size. This is a unique club and the managers that followed Bassett, Bobby Gould and Don Howe and later Ray Harford, didn't try to change the



After rejecting the opportunity last year to manage the Republic of Ireland, Kinnear feels more committed to the cash-strapped club than ever before. In January, Kinnear will celebrate five years in his unenvied job. "I don't mind admitting I would love to swap places with Alex Ferguson or Kevin Keegan for a while. just to see what an open cheque book looks like. Somehow I don't think they would be too willing to swap."

The next 10 years begin at Selhurst Park on Saturday when Manchester United are the season's first visitors. Despite the evidence of the Charity Shield, the evidence of the last decade suggests it would be unwise to bet against Wimbledon's chances of pulling off another surprise.

'It doesn't matter if you earn £37,000 per week, the body can only take so much. Suffering in pre-season is unavoidable'

ing. Who says the British weather is

The last week of the holiday this year was dull and cool, but, unsurprisingly, the temperatures in that first torturous week back in training consistently soared above 80

degrees. Around the country, different teams have different regimes for that first day back. Some coax the players back to fitness slowly and gently. This measured, delicate buildup is said to minimise injuries and strains, and the players seem to like it, too. But othand the players seem to face it, too, but our-er managers prefer the good old-fashioned technique, an approach which might be summarised as working them until they throw up in the sand dunes in the morning, before making them chase Michael Johnson's times on the track in the afternoon. At Tranmere, they favour the latter

method. It isn't too bad for me, being smaller and lighter. I can skip fairly easily up and over the sand dunes. It is the thick-set centrehalves and the like who have it tougher. The thought of the horrors to come must eat away at the back of their minds all summer. Nagging whispers remind them that every extra beer, slice of pudding and day

For the past 16 years, I've faced blazing hot without training will have to be paid for surshine on the first day of pre-season trainwon't lie and you can't cheat a sand dune. Looking around at the faces as we ar-

rive at the dreaded dunes, various stereotypes are clearly visible. There's the Beginner. A youth trainee, who probably arrived back from his holiday in Magaluf late last night, still a bit tipsy. His morning will end with him on all

seen it end up in hospitalisation, to slightly less mirth. Then there's the Sensible Pro. He has been ticking over all summer and has gradually built up his training regime over the last two or three weeks in preparation. He will do plenty of sweating, but because he is a fairly natural athlete anyway, he is un-

likely to see this morning's breakfast again. The Old Stager knows that he isn't a good runner, but he gives everything none the less, even if he finishes two minutes behind the natural athletes. He probably gets more benefit from the dunes than anyone. Generally a journeyman, career player, he gets and deserves much of the respect but lit-

tle of the money. The Lazy Git wouldn't know a pain barrier if he tripped over one. A dying breed



Pat Nevin, the PFA chairman and veteran of too many dune runs with Tranmere, remembers the pains of outrageous training

fours, throwing up in the sand, to general applause and laughter. In some cases, I have in the modern game, this endangered I had kept up that regime. I would have to species only survives if he is an extraordinary and exceptionally talented individual.

Or a goalkeeper. The Smarm is usually a youngster who says he hasn't done a thing all summer and tells everyone that he is really worried about it all. Omitting to mention that he was the county cross-country champion for the last two years, he effortlessly finishes way ahead of the field. This lad has a great first week, but suffers during the next week when the balls are brought out, since most of the others enjoy kicking smug brats. Over the years I've tried countless meth-

ods of preparing for pre-season. At 18, I trained hard all the way through the summer without a break, setting off on 10-mile runs every other day. Youth can be so energetic, so zealous, so ... totally stupid. If it's entertaining for the kids but also relaxing

have retired before I was 30.

A couple of years ago, for the first time, I took a complete rest over the summer. having picked up a few injuries. Never again: the pain of trying to get back to peak fitness in three short weeks, from a state of flaccid torpor, was hell.

Another little-known problem with the first day of pre-season training is that it usu-ally coincides with the first day of the school holidays. Any hopes of lazing about all afternoon in a bath or recovering by slobbing in front of the television are replaced by some harsher realities, like trudging around the zoo, a long walk in the forest or running after the little darlings at one of those new indoor kids' playzones. A visit to the swimming pool is a good compromise, as

for a weary footballer's legs. I rarely complain, however, because I know that some of the lads suffer far more than I do.

I knew one who slept downstairs on the couch because it was too painful to drag himself up the 14 steps at night. At those times, a visit to the toilet for him meant negotiating those stairs on all fours, although for most of us, coming downstairs in the morning means doing a fair im-pression of Frankenstein's monster with

Keeping with the lavatorial theme, following one especially heavy and unexpected weights session, a player confessed to me that he had so much pain in his chest and arms that wiping after a visit to the loo was impossible. I hope he took care of his own

After that same training session, another player almost crashed his car at a roundabout because he was unable to turn his steering wheel due to the pain. Before that, I'd often wondered why so many professional footballers needed big cars with pow-

er steering; now I knew.

It doesn't matter if you cost £15m and carn £37,000 per week, the human body can only take so much. Suffering during preseason training is unavoidable because you cannot stay match fit for 52 weeks a year, a great place to be.

every year. Injuries that have been carried have to be given time to heal correctly. Muscles have to be allowed to strengthen again because over-tiredness leads to

At the Professional Footballers' Association, we witness the effects of the stress, burn-out and injuries, with the high numbers of players who are forced to retire early from the game every year. There are just too many matches now. With play-offs, World Cups, European Championships and pre-season tours to Outer Mongolia, if the money is right, the seasons seem to merge

into each other. It's not all gloom, though. Training at a high level is addictive, and the adrenalin rush gives a real buzz. The weather is good and it is still a relatively short working day. so there is time to do other things. The season's worries are still in the future, there aren't the worries about last week's result. next week's result, the league position or even your own position. There are also the

delights of the pre-season tour. Sadly on last year's tour, my room-mate returned one morning blind drunk. Mistaking my bed for the toilet, he relieved himself all over it with me inside. At that moment, even the sand dunes seemed like

FOOTBALL: With a new season imminent, Glenn Moore examines the problems of the sport's new wealth

The game's future depends on balance

Two years ago Rick Parry, the chief executive of the Premier League, went to the United States to see what could be learned from American sports. While there, one senior executive said to him, "If you think you have problems now, wait until realhy big money comes into your game." Shortly afterwards, baseball's millionaires proved his point by going on strike

English football has not come to that yet, but it is getting close. A strike is threatened, not among the Premiership's millionaires but by the relative paupers of the Nationwide League (what a good start for that sponsorship). Meanwhile, the likes of Fabrizio Ravanelli are taking home more in a week than the national average annual wage.

It all makes for differences in mood as the season starts. On the one hand the game is bigger, more fashionable and, arguably, more ex-citing than ever. The Charity Shield performances of Manchester United's players and Newcastle United's supporters left one drooling at the prospect of the season to come.

But, behind the gloss of the Premiership, there are problems. The crux of the Nationwide row is that all sides have a valid viewpoint. The First Division clubs are aware that the gap to the Premiership is growing so fast it could become insurmountable to all but the likes of Wolves. The rest are thus desperate to grab as much of the cake as pos-

That leaves the Second and Third Division clubs even further behind. It also threatens to squeeze the Professional Footballers' Association. Given the meteoric, and largely unforeseen, rise in television income. there is an argument for suggesting the PFA's customary 10 per cent cut from Football League TV deals could be reduced, as the PFA's members, the players, are being paid indirectly for performing on television through their clubs' ability to pay

higher wages. However, it appears that the PFA is the only body that can be trusted to have the wider interests of the game at heart. The PFA is not immune from politicking, but also has



Setting out English football's stall: Asprilia, Beckham, Shearer and May represented at least £25m of talent on show in the Charity Shleid

improving. As for the clubs, most of them cannot see beyond their own

One thing we can say with some certainty is that the next television deal with the Premiership is going to be staggeringly large. The future shape of the game will be decided by the way that money is distributed. nothing like the internal problems of This is why the PFA does not want the FA - though that organisation is to lose the battle with the League.

With the Bosman ruling likely to affect the small clubs' traditional lifeline of transfer income, there is a need to establish a system of compensation and subsidy. Otherwise, the smaller clubs will not be able to justify the expense of bringing on young players. The obvious way to do this is to take off a large slice of Premiership television income before

amenable to reducing their cut.

Some chance. A few Premiership directors and chairmen have paid lip service to the idea, and so has Parry, but there has been no indication to date of it being instituted. If it does not happen, the long-term result will be the change to the kaleidoscopic nature of the English game, seeing it reaches the clubs. If that was pro- it replaced by a more monolithic ver-

posed, the PFA might be more sion, similar to the American sports scene, where a group of superclubs

form a closed shop at the top. It might be even worse. In America, the draft system and salary caps mean there is a measure of equality. Here, the Premiership is already forming into sub-divisions. There is a trio of clubs capable of winning the title, a clutch of other clubs which, with good management and finan-

more friendly, as Italy flattered to deceive in Euro 96 and their Olympic Under-23 team fared even worse. It is also a season of promise in European club football. There are still doubts about the mobility of Manchester United's central defence but their chances have been considerably enhanced by the ending of the foreign player restrictions. For the first time since English

been lost to Italy, while Ravanelli would never have left there. Part of

the funds to buy them and pay them has come has come from TV, but

much has been generated by the

A similar story across the Prem-

iership has created a division rich in

skill and enterprise. Old players

criticise the lack of "characters" in the game, but the foreign influx has

meant that few clubs do not have at

The downside is the possible long-

term consequence for the England team. Being able to train alongside

Roberto Di Matteo may be a boon to Chelsea's England youth in-ternational Jody Morris, but it is no

good if he cannot get into the team.

The same applies to Rio Ferdinand

at West Ham and Chris Holland at

In the short term, the national team looks in good hands. Glenn Hoddle is capable of maintaining the progress achieved by Terry Ven-

ables, and he will be grateful for the way his predecessor blooded a suc-

cession of young talents. Even Eng-

land's World Cup draw now looks

least one player worth watching.

clubs themselves.

Newcastle.

should be interest, post-Christmas, in the Champions' Cup. Whether Manchester United can cope with both their European and domestic commitments is likely to determine the Premiership. United play football the right way, and have been a shining example in the development of young players, but a fourth title win in five years would

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clubs returned to Europe there

not be good for the game.

Their shareholders would not Among those are Sunderland and, agree, but it might not be good for while it may not last, it is good to see United either. It may be hard to apall three North-east clubs in the top preciate at the time but every team flight. Sunderland are the poor needs to fail occasionally, it makes neighbours, while the other two the successes all the sweeter. The show the positive side of the new trick is not to make a habit of it. Esmoney flooding the game. Five seasons ago, Alan Shearer would have pecially not starting with Saturday.

Three young talents ready to shine...

Emile Heskey (Leicester City) Age 18.

(Leicester City) Age 18.

He looks like a heavyweight boxer – he is 6'2" and 13st – but has played most of his left

-- In time, he is likely to move inside to lead the attack, and he has already played there with good effect - he has seven goals in his 31 League appearances. Versatile, Heskey can also play in midfield

Tipped for a pre-season transfer and. even though he is Leicester-born and a former trainee, it will be a surprise if he is still at Filbert Street in a year's time. David Beckham (Manchester Utd) Age 21.

League appearances to date), he was arguably Units Wembley appearant the centre of midfield now faces ed's best player in both of this year's Wembley appearrole in the centre of midfield

and now faces competition from Karel Poborsky in the wide right position. If he can keep his place with United he should be able to win one with England. He has

awareness and imagination.
His willingness preparedness to work at his game is reflected in his improved crossing, while an encounter with Stuart Pearce last season showed he is no shirker.

Andy Gray

(Leeds United) Age 18. He was the redeeming feature of Leeds's Coca-Cola Cup final. Son of Frank, he has a readiness to run at defenders, and ability to go by them, which recalls his uncle Eddle. Only played 15 League games, but already appears positive

English-born but the Scots have their eye on him. Having capped him at youth level-they would have taken him on their pre-Euro 96 tour if Leeds had not preferred him to be rested. Lee Sharpe may be about to find the left-wing position is no easier to gain at Elland Road than at Old Trafford.

and the three with most to prove this season

Andy Cole (Manchester United) 'Cole the Goal' seems a sad memory now, Even his well-taken championship clincher at Middlesbrough was over-shadowed by his subsequent abysmal FA Cup final display.

his all-round game has improved, and he is still chings, but the constant failure — and Eric Cantonia's withering gares — must be chipping away at his confidence. Alex Ferguson made a point. of telling him he would not have been sold if Shearer had signed but as it is he has had the worst possible start to the season, laid up with pneumonia while Scholes and Cruyff feast on Cantona's promptings.

Davic Platt

(Arsenal) The homecoming season turned into a bettle for fitness and form. Played most of England's Euro 96 matches without recaptur-

ing the form of old and is now in danger of losing his international place as well as the captainty. his problems stemmed from a persistent tone injury which prevented him from pursuing his strength – late runs into the box, while Arsena's lack of a genuinely creative midfielder saw him miscast. He is only 30,

but the nature of his game means he is likely to age quicker than most unless he

Photograph: Robert Hallam

cial input, could break into that

group, and a rump just hoping to stay

above the relegation zone.

(Middlesbrough) Rarely did he look the best young midfield player in the that had as much to do with his being on a

different plane to most of his team-mates. His international commitments did not help With Brazil qualifying automatically for the next World Cup, there should be fewer of those this season. Middlesbrough's other Brazilians and Fabrizio Ravanelli ought to be able to read his game. The Olympics may not have been the best preparation for a

long English season, though, and we may need to remember he is only 23.

Money cannot compensate for the loss of a maestro

Luca Valdiserri considers what effect the exodus of talent from Italy to money-mad England may have in both countries

Rich and stupid. That was how the football world regarded the presidents of Italian clubs who showered Ajax with money to buy a player such as Dennis Bergkamp without realising that they also had to build around him the playing system in which he had previously flourished, or who imported English players such as Luther Blissett. who then became the favourite target of

television satirists. The departure to the Premiership of internationals such as Fabrizio Ravanelli and Roberto Di Matteo, preceded by Gianluca Vialli - who, in the last two seasons had been the emblem of revival at Juventus has changed this perspective. And now Italians are convinced that English football clubs are rich, very rich. We will soon see whether they have also been stupid.

The first wave of emigrants with first-class tickets, a product of the Bosman case, has filled Italy with two sensations: one of losing some of the leading lights of their national sport and one of being a nation that now thinks of business and not just of fun. The most telling case is that of Fabrizio Ravanelli, sold to Middlesbrough for 18 billion lire (£7m). Ravanelli had cost a little over 4 billion when his transfer from Reggiana in 1992 was eased through by a telephone call from Walter Veltroni, a PDS politician and vice-president of the Council in the present Prodi government, to the then president of Reggiana, Ermete Fiae-cadori. Veltroni is an ardent Juventus supporter and Fiaccadori was also president of Coop, the co-operative tied to the for-

mer Italian Communist Party. The sale of Ravanelli - who scored the decisive goal in the European Cup final against Ajax in Rome last May - would in the past have been seen by Juventus supporters as the greatest of betrayals. But these days, faced by such an offer, no one had second thoughts about taking such a money-making opportunity: neither supporters nor the media.







Photograph: Allsport

This players' diaspora could be an opportunity to transform Italy's provincial footballing mentality: having players abroad and watching leagues as competitive or more so than the Italian league might dis-pel the illusion that Italian football is the best in the world. Nigeria's victory in the Olympic tournament underlined how it is no longer enough to have a tradition, such as Italy, Brazil and Germany have, for be-

ing No 1.
For England it could on the other hand be the chance to enrich the technical vocabulary of their own footballers. Silvio Berlusconi's Milan became a superpower through their technical and tactical superiority, but also and above all through the professionalism and the example of the Dutch trio of Ruud Gullit, Marco van Bas-

ten and Frank Rijkaard. Vialli, Ravanelli and Di Matteo: three foot-

different cases. The Vialli move is a fruit of the Bosman case, in that he was released on a free transfer. Juventus had anyhow decided not to count on him for the future. His fee for re-signing was too high, especially given the team's cost-cutting policy.

Ravanelli was a market-driven move in the old manner: once upon a time it was the Italians who would commit any madness to get their hands on a proven goalscorer - now it is the English. It is not a case of the Italian football market having changed course: nowadays they still look for young players from abroad, such as Kanu for Internazionale.

Di Matteo is, for Italian followers of the game, the real blow: he is a young player who does not look on moving to England as a way of making do (Ravanelli has said more often than not that, had it been left to him, he would never have left Juventus), ballers of national importance, and three very and who occupies a midfield position on

which the tempo and rhythm of the whole lish teams have yet to assimilate the impornational team depends. He is an Italian international at the height of his powers and, like his partner in the team, Demetrio Al-

bertini, one with a guaranteed future. Di Matteo is thus the most surprising inclusion in this exodus: Italian teams should not have let him escape. But the reality of football is often more complex than it at first appears. Juventus, in recent years, have sold Roberto and Dino Baggio, Vialti and Ravanelli, Jürgen Kohler and Andy Möller, and yet have won the championship, the

Champions' Cup, and the Uefa Cup. Manchester United and Newcastle have bought and spent as hard as they can, but have made no progress in Europe. The su-periority of Italian clubs over these English ones may reside, in the end, in matters of organisation and in details. One example could be in players' physical preparation. The impression, seen from abroad, is that Engtance of finding specific and different train-

ing programmes for each player. Juventus believed so strongly in this that their fitness trainer, Giampiero Ventrone, a former Italian naval officer, was as important as, if not more than, one of their top players. The same applied at Berlusconi's Milan where the fitness trainer, Vincenzo Pincolini, was prevented from leaving by the president himself: he wanted to move to Parma, but the red and black team would have more happily given up Weah or Roberto Baggio.

The Italians, on the other hand, envy England with all their hearts its contracts for television rights. In these England has found an Eldorado, where the renaissance of English football started. But in Italy the relationship between football and television has always been governed by political battles and handled by people with little

professional involvement in the game. The last negotiations for the sale of all television rights for all Italian football was absolutely grotesque. Vittorio Cecchi Gori. the president of Fiorentina and a leading figure in the Italian film industry, surpassed but failed to cover financially the offer made by RAI, the state television channel.

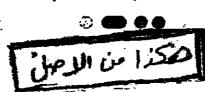
Perhaps the next development will be in the market for football managers. The Italians would come out on top in the championship for bank balances and, in this case, Italy would once again bring bome the spoils from foreign tournaments.

Comparisons between Italy and England will be a fraught subject again during qual-ification for the 1998 World Cup in France. The new qualifying formula does not guarantee that both teams qualify directhy: one of the two, assuming that they should finish above Poland, Georgia and Moldova, will have to go to a play-off to qualify. In Italy before the recent European Championship, few would have feared a qualifying group with England as the main adversary. For too many years the England team had disappointed at international level

But Euro 96 changed the perspective. England went a long way, reaching the semifinals before losing on penalties to Germany, while Italy went out in the first round. For the Azzuri this setback may have been of long-term benefit: there is no team like the Italians for excelling themselves in adversity and losing when in a position of safety. The match against the Czech Republic, in Liverpool, was the best example of this.

Italian opinion of the England team was also raised by Paul Ince's performance in the championship. The Internazionale midfielder started off badly and the critics had jumped on his back: "A typical English player, capable only of an aggressive, technique-free, game". But Ince, in the second half of Euro 96, had showed himself to be an excellent player. He will never be a Maradona, but no one in Italy can any longer doubt his quality. And if Ince can be Glenn Hoddle's "spy" on how the Ital-ians play, so Di Matteo and Ravanelli will now be able to even things out.

Luca Valdiserri writes for Corriere della Sera



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Hidden Personality That was just another chapter in a medical history already running into several volumes, with texts on circulation problems and skin complaints, stress fractures and dodgy hip joints, not to mention an unfortunate tendency to develop headaches at the least opportune moments.

football 7

Team-by-team guide to the Premiership



Hardly the ideal start to the season and there may be more problems to come. If things do not improve soon even Tony Adams may be wondering if he is better off elsewhe he has been linked with Manchester United often enough,

Need to get the new soon, and give him the new players Bruce Rioch was denied. If that happens an FA Cup run is not out of the question. Any team with David Seaman, Adams, Dennis Bergkamp and lan Wright cannot be

But the long-term rebuilding job is massive. Too many key players have hit 30 and the only young talent is, typically, at centre-back with Scott Marshall and Matthew Wicks.

Coach: Stewart Houston Reserves: George Armstrong Tom Walley Captain: Tory Adams

ins John Lukic (Leeds) free Ground capacity: 38,500 Tickets and prices for away sup-porters: 3,000 available at £13

Season tickets: £299-637 Ticket enquiries: 0171-704 4040 Credit card bookings; 0171-413

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MANCHESTER UNITED



One-season wonders? Or back at the top to stay? Surprised everyone last year but, as their system is sometimes functional and predictable, they may be worked out this time, especially as Paul McGrath's knees cannot go on much

However, the squad is young and confident. astute enough to develop their style Mark Draper could play himself into England recognition and his team into a further tilt at honours. The squad may look thin but there are good youngsters Gareth Southgate's mergence means there is cover for McGrath. Even so, it is surposing that Fernando Nelson was the only buy.

Manager: Brian Lizie Assistant: Alan Evans

In: Fernando Neison (Sportin Lisbon) £1.5m Out: Paul Browne (Rach £120,000; Mark Jones (Wokes Ticket prices for home sup-porters: Adults £13-17; chi-dren £6-9 Tickets and prices for away sup-porters: 3,000 available at £13 Season tickets: £223-277 for adults; children and OAPs £93-

Ticket exquiries: 0121-327 5353 Pres

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t year: 4th diction: 4th	<u>.</u>	1Flowers
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Predicting such a lowly place - 12th - is leaving a hostage to fortune - Jack Walker's. chequebook could lift them into European contention, but can a Klinsmann or Klunert be persuaded to join a club with little real hope of the tide?

departure is a shattering blow, though Chris Sutton may flourish in the absence of both Shearer and Harford is at least now moulding his team, not tinkering with Kenny Yorgos Donis is an

esting capture while the spring signing of Gary Croft, and yesterday's purchase of Robbie Elliott, suggests Graeme Le Saux will be leaving as soon as he

Manager, Ray Harlord Assistant: Tony Parkes Reserves: Teny Danacust Captain: Ten Sherwood inc Yorgos Donis i Panathmakos

Out: Alan Shearer (Newcastle) £15m; Mike Newell (Samang-ham) £750,000; Gary Tallon (Minagenes)) fee Komamock) free Pround capacity: 30,500 Ticket prices for home sup-portess: Adults £15; children £8 portess: AQUS 21.3; cramen 28 Tickets and prices for many sup-porters: 4,000 available at £15 (ad:sts); £8 (children) Season tickets: League £263-333; Premum £318-402

NEWCASTLE UNITED



the goalkeeping good enough? Will there be

Duberry and Jody Moms there is young

promise but the squad

has too many ordinary players. More spending

consistently good gates

to help pay the wages

is required. At least

there should be

bill, whatever the

rager: Road Guild

Assistant: Own Williams

eves: Mick McGive

ta: Gantuca Viati (Juventus) free; Roberto Di Metteo (Lexio) 54.9m; Frank Leboeuf (Stosboorg) £2.5m

From Leoceut (Stockborry 2-2.cm Out: Paul Furlong (Brumingtam) £1.5m; Muzzy Izset (Leocester) £550,000; Negel Spuckman (Sheffield Umled) free; Zake Rone (Peterborough) free Ground capacity; 29,700 Takket prices for home sup-portans; Non-members £20; Members; adults £13; children £6

ickets and prices for away sup orters: 1,700 available at £20

Season tickets: Only £349 tick

Ticket enquiries: 0171-385 5545

Cradit card bookings: 0171-386 7799

Last year, 11th Prediction; 7th

Coach: Graham Ro

Fooths Ted Date

opposition.

enough goals? In Mike

Chelsea are They are trying so hard unpredictable at the to change their image it is a surpose they are best of times and it is almost impossible to not now called Coventry Gladiators, or Highfield forecast their destiny now. If Giantuca Vialli Heroes. Big Ron goes and Mark Hughes click on spending (what must Phil Neal and if Roud Gullit can both manage and play; if Frank Leboeuf Bobby Gould, his predecessors, think? but the signings are beginning to carry the stamp of Gordon season form. Cheisea could be up there. But one wonders, is

Gary McAllister's passing could bring the best from a potentially thrilling forward line when City have the should add composure to the defence when they do not. Still a long way from challenging the best but, for once, they should avoid the relegation scramble.

Manager: Ron Attensor Coach: Gordon Strachon Reserves: Gaty Pendry

in: Gary McAllister (Leeds) £3m; Michael O'Neil (Hibernian) £300,000; Régis Genaur (Standard Légo) £3m Out David Renne (Northempton); Lee Hirst: Ally Pickering (Stoke); Jonathan Gould (Branfard); Stew Jonathan (Macan); Jame Barn Morgan (Wagan); Jame Barn well-Edinburgh (Cambridge Unit ed): all kee transfers. Ground capacity: 24,500 Ticket prices for home sup-porters: Adults £15-20; chil-dren half price

Season tickets: £250-380. GAPs and chitren can get a half-price season ticket Credit card booldags: 01203 578000

Prediction: 150	
1Ograne 2Share 3Burrous 4Medioms 5Dosh 6Rehartzan 7Jess 8Wristan 9Dubin 10Mediister 11Salako 12Teter	13 Filan 14 Ne2ov. 15 Jasala 16 Borross 17 Boland 19 Christic 20 O'ness 21 Duross 22 O'nose 24 Gendus 26 Stracke
SHEFFIELD '	WEDNESDAY



Have they spent enough? In the last promoted clubs have gone straight back down again and Derby are in danger of joining them. Aljosa Asanovic is an excellent signing and Igor Stimac is a remiership-quality player but the rest of the squad is thin, Goals by and all of Jim Smith's expenence will

be required to keep

County up. However, the Baseball Ground is sure to tinge with atmosphere in its final season and that. combined with their often bog-like outch. may enable Derby to gamer enough home wins to surme. One of the promoted clubs has to, if the Premiership is not to become a closed

Coach: Steve McClare Youth: B.IIv McEyan

Inc Alinea Agannus; (Hardin, Solit) £960,000; Jacob Laursen (Sike-borg £500,000; Christian Daily (Dundee Utt.) £500,000; Poul Parker (Manchester United) free Out: Damen Wrack (Grimsby £100,000; Glyn Hadzes, released Ground capacity: 19,500 (15,000 seated: Ticket prices for home sup-portons £18 Tickets and prices for away sup-porters: 1,800 available at £18 eason tickets: £320-£380

Last year: 2nd (First Division)Rpact Manufactured C..... -...Laurse 7 Van der Laan



hired a sinner. An that is how many people vuli see Dave replacement by Graeme soon. Souness' signing Memington did not?

to see how Matt Le Tissler responds to Souness's "coaxing" local and national to move to a new ground Southampton to stay in the Premiership, The only difference this time is that they will not have

Aust: Phil Boersma Reserves: Teny Cocaci Youth: Alan Murray Captain: Barry Veruson

Outs Rockard Hall (West Ham) £1.9m: Tommy Widdington (Gonsty) £300,000; Mark Wal-ters (Swindon) feet Bruce Grobbe-last (Phymouth) free con thebate: £270-340

Prediction: 18th Ireleasted



FA Cup glory in his first season, league stability script for Loe Royle's third year included a decent title challenge there still appears a lot of re-building to go and they may have to settle for a tirt at a cup. Most urgent is a

Duncan Ferguson who, if he can avoid injury and scandal, may begin repaying Evertonian faith. If none is signed 17-year-old Michael Branch may get his chance.

In midfield Gar, Speed is eager and Tony Grant promising while Paul Gerrard's arrival secures the future in goal. His debut may be delayed by Neville Southall's staying but he can have no better example to leam from.

Manager: Joe Royle Assistant: Wile Donache

inc Gary Speed (Leeds) £3.5m; Paul Gerard (Oktham) £1m Out: Gan: Abiet: (Bensaguer) 1450,000; Bany Home (Bensaguer) 1300,000; Danie: Amolachi (Besidas): £1.75m Ground capacity: 40,180
Ticket prices for home sup-porters: Adults £13-18; chi-dren £7; GAP: £9 Tickets and prices for away sup-porters: £15-17 Season tickets: £186-265 Season tickets: £185-265 Ticket enquiries: 0151-330 Credit cord bookings: 0151-471 8000 Last year: 67:





Will Gary McAllister's departure leave Leeds will the vounesters flour ish out of his shadow? The youthful promise, nersonified by Andy Gray, is a consequence

of Howard Wilkinson's lengthy tenure and he main for a few years vet. His summer signngs are all good ones: Liverpool wanted Lee Sowver, Everton coveted Nigel Martyn and Celtic led a possee after lan Rush, Lee Sharpe seems expensive but he needed the

move and may flourish. You something seems away at Leeds and Tony Yeboah's injury is a serious blow - Leeds lost without him last year. Manager, Howard Willenson esistent: Mick Henryan

Coach: David Wikisms was: Much Hennacon Youth: Edde Gray, Paul Hart Robin Was Captain: Ian Rush

the tan Resh (Liverpool) free: Les Bowyer (Charlton) £2 6m: Nige Martin (Cystal Patocot £2.3m; Les Sharpe (Manchester United) £4.5m Out: Gary Speed (Everton) £3m;
Out: Gary Speed (Everton) £3m;
Phil Massings (St. Gallen)
£500,000; Gary McARister
(Covertoy) £3m; Negel Worthing;
tan (Stoke) free; John Luke (Avertoy)

Ground capacity: 40,200

Ticket enquiries: 0113 2710710 Credit card bookings: 0113 Last year: 13th

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Martin O'Neill was always destined for Premiership management but what an unpromising way to arrive. Since the play-offs began eight teams have been promoted through them, yet just two have survived, only one in the last six seasons. That is the measure of

Leicester's task and.

unlike that last survivor,

they have no Jack Walker. They recognise the mer beardroom coup was engineered to provide more funds but, as ' vet, new Diayers have not been forthcoming instead last year's top scorer, Iwan Roberts. has left. Emile Heskey remains, but for how Still, there is always.

next season's promotion campaign to look

estes: Martin O'Nesti

Reserves/Coach: Paul Franks

eenn tickets: £260-140

Last year: 6th (First Decision)

Youth: David Nish

Captain: Steve Watsh

Manager: Roy Evers Assistant: Ronne Morar Reserves: Sammy Lee Youth: Steve Heighway Captable John Barnes

We will never know how

if Jamie Redknapp had

ing for England. By the

despite the famous win

four points from Man-

Redimapp's musy

highlighted one weak-

in depth, Patrik Berg-

that, especially with

Michael Thomas stay-

Berger may add pene-

which was full of pass-

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With Ian Rush gone

Robbie Fowler and Stan

Collymore will have to

stay fit. If they do Liver-

pool could yet make it

a three-horse race.

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RUNNING.

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ness, a lack of strength

er's signing has helped

not been injured play-

time he regained fit-

challenge was dying

over Newcastle and

chester United.

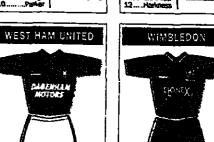
ness and form the

close Liverpool would

Inc Patrik Berger (Borussia Dort mund) £3,25m Out: Ian Rush (Leads: Tree Ground capacity: 41,100 Ticket prices for home sup-porters: Adults £12-15; con-cessions £6-7.50 Out: Brian Carey (Wresham £50,000; Iwan Roberts (Wokes) Ground especitive 21,500 Tickets and prices for away sup-porters: 3,059 available at £17 Ticket prices for home step-portess: £12-15 Tickets and prices for every sup-portess: 1.500 acailable at £15. Season tickets: Sold cut

Gredit card bookings; 0151-263 5727 Last year. 3rd Prediction; 3rd

 13 Warn 14 Rusto 15 Thom 18 Charlo 19 Kerne 20 Sjorneb 21 Akez 22 Storisgae 24 L Jon 25 Thompso 25 Berg





one of only eight clubs to have survived so long, who would have thought it? Wimbledon are now so well established that four dare tip them for the drop and for the moment, it seems, they are not even a selling Dean Holdsworth may go, in time, but Wimbledon will seek to

If the youth team is

£1.9m; Muchael Hughes (Stras-bourg) free: Steve Jones (Boumpropula) £200,000; Scott Mana (Roumpropula)

Season tlekets: Askes: £310-460; concessions: £185-275 Treket enquiries: 0181-548 2700

Analysis by Glenn Moore

was with a more

fashionable club. A

and old heads with

Manager: Joe Keyneler Assistant: Terry Burson

Captain: Vinne Jores

both groups.

good mix of young legs

plenty of character from

orves: Lawne Sanchez

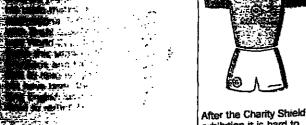
2.134m; Duncan Jupp (Fulfram) 2.125,000 Out: Stove Talboys (Wattard); Gerald Dobbs; Roger Joseph; Hons Sogers; Justin Skinner, Mark Thomas, all releases

Ground capacity: 26,300
Ticket prices for home sup-porters: Adult: £15-20; OAPs and children £10

Season tickets: £165-250 Ticket cognities: 0181-771

Gredit card bookings: 089: 516 161

Last year: 14th Prediction: 14th



exhibition it is hard to imagine anyone denying United a fourth title in five seasons but there are signs of hope for the chasing pack One is that Shearer is not at Old Trafford. It his finishing had been added to United's midfield we could have

begun writing the paens other is the Champions League - five of last season's quarter-finalists failed to retain their domestic title. Yet the kids are a year older and the squad strengthened with Europe in mind. Steve Bruce's presence will be missed and Andy Cole still looks an expensive mistake but,

Manager: Alex Ferguson ant: Bren Kuld Reserves: Jim Ryan outhe Enc Harrise Captains Enc Cantona

fter Sunday, who

mem?

would dare bet against

im: Roomy Johnsen (Besidas) £1m. Die Gunnar Solsiger (Molde) £1.5m; Raimond van der Gouve (Vitesse Arnheim) free; Kard Poonsty (Siawa Prague) £3.5m; Jord Guyff (Barcelona) £1.2m Jordi Cruym (Barcelona) 5.1.2m Out: Paul Parker (Derbyl free: Surve Bruce (Barmingram) free: Tony Coton (Sunderland) £800,000; Lee Sharpe (Leeds) round capacity: 55,300. Ticket prices for home sup-porters: Adults £12-18; chil-

in tickets: [228-342 Hoket enquiries: 0161-872 Lest year: 151



Fabrizio Ravanelli... who's next? George Weah? Anything see possible now on Teesside with Bryan Robson's rebuttal of England's interest underlining the moment the

potential. For the championship may still be out of reach but a filirtation with the title, and a strong challenge for a European place, should be within their compass. And what about a first Wembley appearance? The Brazillans do not have World Cup

qualifying commitments, Ravaneti looks well-suited to England, hard working with plenty to prove, he might even justify his wages.

Manager, Bryan Robson Appletant: Viv Anderson Coach: John Picketing Reserves: Gordon McQue Youth: David Gedds Captain: Nigel Pearson inc Emerson (Pono) £Am; Fabraid Ravanelli (Juventus) 57m Out: Paul Willerson (Bernsley) free; Jeane Moreno (Washington DC United) £100,000.

aty: 36,000 Ticket prices for bome sup-porters: Adults £19; conces son tickets: Adults £225 ; concessions £135 Ticket enquiries: 01642 207014 Credit card bookings: 01642 221227 Last year: 12th Prediction: 8th

15 Wheter 16 Rebson 17 _ Blackmost



be shattering. Questions remain about the defence, notably on the flanks and between the sticks, but Sunday's demolition also showed weaknesses in central defence, midfield and attack. It was, after all the lack of goals which betrayed them in the end last season, when they only conceded two more than the

champions but scored seven less. Shearer, if the right partnership can be found should solve that problem but the be found behind him. As at Old Trafford one be keeping everyone hanov. Should be stronger for last year's experience - and possibly for Sunday's loss, but the other United seem to be

enager: Kewn Koogan salatanat: Terry McDermot Conches: Arthur Cox, Chris McMenemy and Derek Fezocker

Out: Robbie Elliott (Blackburn) in Ground capacity: 36,518 Ticket prices for home sup porters: Season ticket only Refeats and prices for away St porteen: 1,800 neigns evaluate at: £18.50 (adults); £13 (chicke Ticket enquiries (including seed-it card bookings): 0191 2611571 Last year: 2nd Prediction: 2nd

...Hodend Berysor Phot Jacon Kasor



Forest's constitution, obvious indication of which precludes improvement this. That millionaire chairmen Marc Degryse and from taking over, to Darko Kovacevic have compete. The lack of gone suggests the funds has not been usually methodical helped by Frank Clark's David Pleat did not recent abberations think their signings (Andrea Silenzi? Kevin through enough. Andy Booth is a useful buy, Campbell?) in a previously good transfer but he may take time to adjust to the step up is an excellent tactician in quality.
Plenty of decent and it is a shame he will not get the chance to test himself in Europe

players but, apart from the ageing Chris Waddle, little which is again. This year's buys, especially Nikola Jerkan look better even if, at outstanding. Attilio Lombardo would have 32, Saunders may be added quality but, while running out of goals.
Will be hard to beat it is a prty he will not be coming. Wednesday deserve praise for and worth backing in the cups, but a refusing his ludicrous championship wage demands. chellenge is probably Someone has to - just as long it does not cos beyond them. The "pineapple" has gone, Pleat his job. though Jason Lee

Manager: Frank Clark

Coach: Liam (l'Kane

Youth: John Penins

Ovjedo) £1m

Lest year: 9th Prediction: 13

stant: Alan Hill

Manager: David Pleat Analytical: Peter Shroeves Couch; Bobby Smith Reserves: Albert Phelan vest Richerd Money Captain: Peter Atteston ins Andy Booth (Huddersfield) 22.7m; Mett Clarke (Rotherham) ler Denn Saunders (Galatasera) £1,5m; Chvis Allen (Oxford £500,000; Nikola Jorian (Rea

Out: Kingsley Black (Gamaby nominal fee: Ned Webb (Exeter nd capacity: 30,587 Ground especity: 40,000 Ticket prices for bosse sup-portons: Adults £18-20; chil-dren and OAPs £9-10 Ticket prices for home sup-porters: Adults £10-18; con-cessions £5-12 Tickets and prices for many supporters: 1,500-5,000 available 1,518 Tickets and prices for every sup-portant: 4,000 soulable at: £13 (adults); £9 (concess) Season tickets: £200-£265 Credit card bookings: 0115 9718181

Last year, 15th والإلافا



exaggerated view but Merrington's Sourcess, Memneton will look at Alan Ball's survival and wonder. one hopes he finds work shows ambition but. without money, what can he do which it will be interesting

did not fancy renewing his acquaintance. Until government allow them will always be struggling the support of neutrals

sader: Graeme Sources

Ticket prices for home sup-porture: Adults £17; children £8 Ticket enquiries (including credit card bookings): 01703 337171 ast year: 17th

Hughestern Hughestern



well-rested after spending last season warming Manchester substruites' benches. He will need to be because he will be busier this season than he has ever been. He also has a lot to live up to, Shay Given's 12 clean sheets in 17 onloan appearances went a long way to helping It is only the second

season all three Northeast clubs have been in the top flight since 1954. On the only other occasion, 1976-77, Sunderland went straight back down and Peter Reid will have to use all his nous if there Michael and Phil Gray could impress if they get the service but Roker Park's last full season could be one of

stanager: Poter Red Assistant: Paul Bracevet Reservoir: Bryan 'Pop' Robins Coptain: Next: 825

inc Alex Rae (Milmaz) £1m; Ton, Coton (Manchester United) £600,000; Paul Steat Cliver-Out: Gordon Amestrong (Buty) free (Alec Chambertain (Watford) | (40,000 Ground canacity: 22.657 Ticket prices for home sup-porters: £16-22 Tickets and prices for every sec perient: 1,010 available at £1

Last year: 1st (First Devision) Prediction: 20th (relegized)

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 0

Less brittle, but also less attractive than Tottenham teams of yore. Relatively quiet in the transfer market but they effectively have a new £8m player in Darren Anderson s should start the season

running this time and. with Anderton and Ruel Fox to provide, he and Teddy Sheringham should score plenty of goals. Doubts at fullack and also in central defence where Gary Mabbutt cannot be expected to defy time Sol Campbell may reed to establish himself in one position

at White Hart Lane in order to do so with England. Hard to beat, and how often has that ever been said about Monagor: Geny Francis Assistant: Rager Cross Reserves: Citris Huginan

Captain: Car, Mahous ing Attar Neisen (Brominy) £1.6m; Espen Gaardsen (San Francisco Au Blacks) free Out: Nerm Watson (Swindon) free, Cris Day (Cristal Palace) £25,000; Steve Stade (OPR) £250,000; Ers Thorsted, repred Ground capacity: 33,100

Youth Dec Burne

liciants and prices for sway repaperters: 2,200 or 4,400 improportions: 2,200 or 4,400 available of £17-20 and £20-23 Season tichets: £330-600 Ticket coquiries: £151-365 5053 Credit card bookings: Non-members 0171-396 3567; mem-bers 0181-365 5100 Last year: 8th Production: 5th

days as the "woee the astronomical price of English players it is Harry Redknapp's international wheeler dealing. Paulo Futre and Ronn Raducioiu have the pedigree but Richard Hall may go furthest to helping West Harn confirm their step keep him until Jason up from relegation/ Euell is ready to take promotion yo-yo club to mid-table stability. over. Ben Thatcher is a good signing while Chris Perry would be widely acclaimed if he

End Academy these

not stymied by the foreign legion Danny progress with Rio Ferdinand next in line. Manager: Horry Redinapp ant: Frank Lampard Coach: Frank Buttons

Captain: Steve Pents le: Florin Raducióu (Español) £2.4m; Munk Bowen (Norwich) free; Paulo Futre (Milan) free; Richard Hall (Southampton)

Ground capacity: 25,634
Ticket prices for home sup-porters: Members £16-24; non-members £17-25; concessions £8-13 cots and prices for a supporters: 2,200-3,600 available at £18/22 (adults); £10

0181-413 9014; non-me 0181-413 9013 Last year: 10th Prediction: 10th

TOOM research i

Call for cut in betting tax

The British Horseracing Board will today publish details of its submission to the Treasury, asking for help in November's Budget to ease the sport's Lottery-induced financial crisis. In what is, in effect, a 19-page begging letter, the BHB asks for a reduction in betting duty of 1.75 per cent, and makes it clear that the livelihoods of thousands of people may depend on whether Kenneth Clarke is persuaded by

their arguments. The most significant aspect of the BHB's submission is its contention that a duty cut should be split between a direct eash injection for the racing industry and a further reduction in the betting "tax" paid by pun-ters, in order to stimulate betting turnover. The BHB would like 0.75 per cent to pass to racing via the Levy, with the remaining one per cent returned to punters via a cut in their deductions to eight per cent. The

Greg Wood reports on the British Horseracing Board's appeal to the government to aid an industry threatened by the Lottery bookmakers, in a separate sub-

mission to the Treasury, asked for a 1.5 per cent cut in duty, all of which would be passed on to their customers. The Chancellor's Budget

speech in November will thus mark the first major test of the political connections of Lord Wakeham, which were thought to be a significant factor in his appointment to succed Lord Hartngton as chairman of the BHB. Racing's submission is com-

pelling, well documented and closely argued," Lord Wakeham said yesterday. "Years of overtaxation of betting and the consequent depressed contribution from betting turnover are now really taking their toll. Racing urgently needs a significant injection of funds to enable it to

The BHB's submission also offers an interesting summary of the state of British racing, and what a state it appears to be in. It points out how poorly we com-pare to other major racing countries in terms of the percentage of betting turnover returned to the industry, and notes that there is "a disturbing decline in investment in two-year-olds" and "an exodus of high-quality bloodstock abroad for breeding purposes." Owners, meanwhile, face one of the poorest risk-toreward ratios anywhere in the

world. Clearly, it is in the BHB's interests to accentuate the negative, but it is hard to disagree with the conclusion that "unless significant investment is made immediately, racing will face a

of collapse if the alarming de cline in betting turnover caused by the National Lottery is not rersed. The future of top-class What such a decline might racing in the country where the mean in human terms is set out in a study by KPMG Managethoroughbred was created could now depend first on whether the ment Consulting which accom-panies the BHB document. Chancellor appreciates the scale of the problem, and then on The Economic Value of the whether he is prepared to assist in its solution. With income tax British Horseracing and Breed-ing Industry" concludes that in cuts an obvious priority, this must 1995, racing and betting provided employment, both directly and indirectly, for more be doubtful. As the BHB's submission

points out, "racing's appeal is clearly very deep-rooted, despite the uneconomic terms on which it has been conducted, which would have led to its virtual extinction elsewhere." Even the deepest roots, though, are little protection in the face of the force 10 gale which the Lottery represents. Let us hope that Lord Wakeham, a former Gov-ernment chief whip, has not lost his touch in the black arts of po-



Chasers stand four square

For what is believed to be the first time since the War, other than in two-runner races, an entire field returned the same starting price at Southwell yesterday. Neither punters nor book-makers could separate the four runners in the Skegness Handicap Chase (Wake Up Luv did not run), and they were all returned

as 11-4 co-favourites. Maggots performance in defeat by Pen-Green won by four lengths.

Durable Cliche in comfort zone www.

Ratings LUKE ARDLEY

Classic Cliche should gain one of those straightforward victories to which horses of his class are occasionally entitled, if he goes for the Group Two Geof-frey Freer Stakes at Newbury on Saturday.

The last reigning Ascot Gold Cup winner to take the contest was Ardross, in 1981 and 1982 when he gave Lester Piggott his 4,000th winner - and Godolphin's chief standard bearer is likely to tread the same route to the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, in which Ardross finished second to Akiyda.

Classic Cliche has proved the most durable of Godolphin's classic winners and his battling qualities brought out his best

tire in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, which was run in an exceptional time. The son of Salse can now be rated as high as 133. This year's St Leger aspirants can only suffer by com-

the representative of what is now emerging as an exceptional crop. Even allowing for the olb penalty Classic Cliche will have to carry, Dushyantor would have a lot to find on Saturday. in terms of temperament as well as ability. Neither Henry Cecil's charge nor any of the threeyear-olds left in the Geoffrey Freer Stakes look up to St Leg-

parison with last year's victor, as

GEOFFREY PRIEER STAKES: Classic Cliche 1.33. Positionas 125, Dushyentor 122, Mands Mu-sic 120, Rey To My Heart 119, Phartom Gold 119, Russian Snows 118, Wayne Country 118. Whitecrippel 118, Blushing Flame 117, Song. O'Teas 117, Munija 116, Lear White 114, Sam-raen 110, High Baroque 110, Summer Spel 101, Amhem 92

SANDOWN

HYPERION 7.15 Pearl Venture 6.15 Phylida 7.45 Filial (nb) 8.15 Gone Savage GOING: Straight course - Good to Firm (Good in places): Round course .- Good (Good to Firm in places). STALLS: Strught course - far side; remainder - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High numbers have considerable advantage in 5f races. Bright-hard track with a separate if course,

Radit-hard Radit-hard track with a separate if course,

Radit-hard Radit-hard track with a separate if course,

Radit-hard Radit-hard track with a separate in course,

Radit-hard Radit-hard track with a separate in course,

Radit-hard Radit-hard track with a separate in course,

Radit-hard SIS ■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH BUNNKES: R. Hazmon — 39 winners from 317 runners gives a success ratio of 12.3% and a loss to a 51 level stake of 563.42; J Gooden — 22 winners, 105 runners, 21.2% + 56.95; J Doulop — 20 winners, 105 runners, 19.2% - 57.35; I Balding runners, 21. Pa. + \$6.95; J Dumlop - 20 winners, 105 runners, 19.2%, \$7.35; I Balding - 17 winners, 102 runners, 10.7%, +\$5.83.

ELEADING JOCKEYS: Pat Beddery - 58 wins, 270 rides, 21.5%, +\$10.82; L Dettori - 19 wins, 211 rides, 18.2%, \$10.80; T Quina - 28 wins, 197 rides, 14.2%, \$11.29; W Carson - 20 wins, 187 rides, 18.3%, \$57.99.

BLINNERED FIRST TIME: None. WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Artist Dane (5.45) won at Bath on Thursday. Old School House (7.15) won at Bath on Thursday. LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Principles (5.45) sent 218 miles by J. L Eyre from Santon Bank. N Yorks: Metal Bogs (8.15) sent 210 miles by Miss L Siddail from Cokon, N Yorks. 5.45 PACEMAKER & THOROUGHERED ERREEDER RACING SCHOOLS APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £5,000 added 1m 14yds

6.15 WEYBRIDGE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £5,000 added 270 5f Penalty Value £3,566 BON GLEST (Ains E, Laciment T.) Naughton 9.0. HOT SHOT (25) Gives S Permicid G L Microe 9.0. BOCKTRIME (22) (FA Strand C James 9.0. BERKTYREL MARKNER (H A Custing) J L Harrie 9.0. PADDY LAD (18) (M & G HM Circumstrat 6 OS RESAL EQUITY (20) (A S Hebest) B Meeten 9 0. B Doyle 6 7 60 TRAINEN (44) (R Heart) White 9 0. Pat Eddory 2 8 0 TEST THE WATER (34) (J S Threadwell) R Hannon 9 0. W Woods 5 9 TUMMA (Douglas Wing) Mis A King 9 0. 5 Drawnes 12 10 33 CHAIN RESCRICTION (60) (RAS Cay Javad M Janus 8 9 P. Rubhinson 3 11 GREEN BOULEMARD (IISA) (Rabin F Sough | Beading 8 9 J. Dethod 1, 1 12 PRILIDA (Mrs P | Majerin 9 Majerin 8 9. Sandries 10 13 STOCK HELL DAINCER (Biss M Fartharm) IV, Burles 8 9 D. D Hantson 8 — 12 dechared — BETTING: 100-30 Incentine, 8-1 Chain Respection, 11-2 Proyfide, 6-1 Gross Boulevard, 15-2 Test The Water, 8-1 Hot Shot, 10-1 Paddy Lad, 12-1 Tubinded, 20-1 others. 1995: Supreme 2 9 0 C Ruster 13-2 (W R Mauri 8 san FORMI GAIDDE

than 100,000 people. In rural ar-

eas, where alternative employ-

ment is often scarce, the

industry employed the equiva-

lent of one in eight agricultur-al workers. In major training centres such as Newmarket and

Lambourn, meanwhile, at least

a third and up to a half of all jobs

in the area depend on racing.

Many of these local

economies, as well as hundreds

of betting shops, will be at risk

1995: Supreme 2.9 to Russer 13-2 (WR Nauri 8 cm.

With a good draw (11) and the benefit of a previous run, INCATIME makes most appeal. He was a 25-1 shot on his Windsor debut but raced prominently all the way to be third to Gunnes Glory and he may not need to improve on that to score against these rivals. This is a much easier race than the Newmarket one won by Grapeshot last month, when rest The Water, who drilled from 10-1 to 33-1 was ninth of 33. Rohard Hannon's colt must be feared, and so must Tallwahal, with Pat Edderly booked, athrough a low draw is against him. On breeding, it is not certain what will be Graven Boulevard's best trop and lan Beiding's newcorner has the lowest draw of all to overcome. Chain Reaction has been beaten a fair way in finishing their bot date and its arrother critical low, but Neonybill Martiner is bried to be speecly being the first foat of Mernyhill Mard, while Tulkupa also has a likely-looling pedgree and is well berthed (12 of 13).

Selection: INCATIME 645 ELMBRIDGE CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £8,000 added

Ľ	<u> </u>	1m 1Ayds Penalty Value £5,296
1	11/43-00	PATER NOSTER (USA) (151) (D) (Martin Myers) Mrs. J Cecil 7 9 0
2		ASETR (78) (D) (Sheikh Ahmed Al Makeourn) M Janus 3 8 12
3		INSTRABI (USA) (11) (D) (Hamdan Al Maldoum) J Dunlop 3 B 11W Carson 1
4	41623	PHANTON QUEST (13) (D) (BF) (K Abdusan) H Ceci 3 8 11
5	62 0030	LAP OF LINGRY (33) (CD) (I C HI-Wood) W Javes 7 8 9
6	3520-00	TARTE AUX PONGLES (USA) (48) (D) (A) Redente) C Britain 4 8 9 B Dayle 9
7	10-20	CENTRE STALLS (118) (Arthory Pye-Jeny) R Johnson Houghton 3 8 7

7 10-20 CENTRE STALLS (118) Unthany Pye-leny! It Johnson Houghton 3 8 7 _______ S Senders 2 8 3218-0 COMMETTAL (13) gin (Sheich Mohammed) | Gooden 3 8 7 _______ L Dethot 10 9 4215-04 LOMBSTATIO (5) (S) Solid Na Homeon IR Hannon 3 8 7 _______ C) Bravison 8 10 521-440 TAMHED (USA) (58) (Hamden A) Malitoum) H Thomson Jones 3 8 7 _______ G Carter 4 ______ E) Commetted (USA) (58) (Hamden A) Malitoum) H Thomson Jones 3 8 7 _______ G Carter 4 ______ E) (Hamden A) Malitoum) H Thomson Jones 3 8 7 _______ G Carter 4 ______ E) (Hamden A) (Hamde who has won twice over the course and distance, never got a run there and can finish clos-er today, but she has not found her form so far this season. Lomberto ran his best races

the Stalls finished behind Lomberto in the Horts Hill last year and is another who should be sured by some give in the ground, but he has not run for four months. Albeyr, unbeaten in two starts, has been off since beating Lucayan Prince a nack at Leleaster in May and has it do with a 10th penetry, white beatyable give little encouragement in Herminerstein's Goodwood race recently but may have needed the run having been ebsent since winning at Doncaster in March, Pester Noster has also been off since March and there needs to have been overnight rain if his stable is to allow him to take his chance today. Tenthid would have a good chance if able to reproduce the form of his runs behind Ramooz and L'Arni Louis et Titrick in the convert.

		7.15	SURREY RACING HANDICAP (CLASS C) £8,000 added 1m 6f Penalty Value £5,550	
	1	/20040/-	RETO (721) (Park Industrial Supplies (Wales) Ltd.) Neville 6 10 0	D Harrista
	2	053425/	ROYAL SEATON (676) (Acronsur Carpets Lended) B Misman 7 9 11	T Sprake :
	3	60221D	PENRL VENTURE (10) (C) Or Frank S B Chao) S Woods 4 9 7	W Woods
	4	0310-02	TUDOR \$5LAND (21) (CD) (D Sign) C Britain 797	E Doyle
1	5	006004	BENFLEET (21) (C & Donovary R Armstory 5 9 1	L Deltad
	6	24-322	JYUSH (35) (Harrigan Al Makipum) H Thomson Jones 3 9 0	G Carter
	ž	03-614		T Ouise
	È	3,32102	ARCTIC FRINCY (USA) (25) (D) (The Cool Customers) P Hank 3 8 13	
	š		BALLYNWICELLY (21) (CD) (Y Y Partnership) R Alchurst 4 8 12.	
	10	122211	OLD SCHOOL HOUSE (6) Lives For The Crack Pertnershot T J Neusteen 3 7 1	0 (500
	30			M Herry (3)
			46 4-4-3	m temb

-- 10 declared -Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True handizap weight Did School House 7st 9th.
BETTING: 9-4 Bellyushelly, 6-1 Arctio Pency, 6-1 Old School House, Tudor Island, 7-1 Ayash, 8-1
Pearl Venture, Steamwoller Study, 10-1 others.
1995: Brougsons Formula 5 7 10 J Quinn 100-30 NV Musson) 5 ran

PORM GUIDE

BALLYNAKELLY can make it seven who on the trot. Reg Alvehusst's ex-irish gelding was impressive in winning three times on the Lingfield all-weather during the winter and has conted that form over to turf, winning at Concaster, Lingfield and over this course and distance. Ballynakely scored by two and a half lengths from Tador Island last time, with Bentfiest two lengths further back in fourth, and he can confirm superiority despite meeting those rivels 6th worse. Tudor Island was having only his second roce of the season them and could well be the one to test Ballynekelly most again. Old School House took advantage of a good handicop mark to follow up his Dancester win at Bath recently but has much more to do now. Charlie Cycer ran too in a 15-futiong Group Two at Longitharip last month, including Steedershier Sharily, who had besten Fursan three-quarters of a length at Newbury previously when officially rated 65. Although beaten 18 lengths in fourth of five in France, he showed normal improvement and, having been raised 9th for his Newbury win, was put up another 12th. Arritic Fassey is 4th higher than when caught close home by Mystic Hill at Newbury, but he should be suited by the likely easier ground and has every chance. Mysish has quite a big weight for his first handicap but should improve for the step up in distance, though the trip may be on the sharp side for Pearl Venture.

Selection: BALLYNAYGELLY

7	7.45	COBHAM MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100	added SKY
-		1m 2f Penalty Value £3,615	<u> </u>
		SOLO YOLDNES (M Green) H Rowsel 7 9 7	
		HONEYSHAN (20) (Terry Cooper) D Rench Davis 4 9 2	
		BACK BY DAWN (32) (W A Hamson-Allan) D Sworth 3 8 12	Demo O'Nolf (3) 6
	3	BALLET HIGH (12) (Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber) Baiding 3 8 12	R Cochrene 4 .
	3	FELIAL (20) (K Aboutety G Harwood 3 8 12	Pat Eddory 13
ı	00	GULLIMER (1077) (K.Abdulah) B 125-3812	8 Thomacs: 7
		MARGODA I (75) (Shelib Abovet Al Maldoveth & Stewart 3 R 12	D Hatristo 15



er standard.

1965 Polydernus 3 8 12 W R Shishour 2-1 B4 Soutel 18 rin
FORM GUIDE
There is a cloubt about FILIAL getting this trip on padigree — he is by Danehul out of a French one-mile winner who is asster to Sigy — but the way he was keeping on in third to Yaltal over a mile here on his debut last month suggests it will not be a problem. He should certainly improve for the run and Pat Eddary takes the ride, Umalloyed, fifth of 14 in Quota's course and distance maken back in April on her only run, can improve. She is one of three Shelkh Mohammed-owned runners and carries the first colours. John Gosden runs three, two of them owned by Shelhh Mohammed, and Franke Detroit is on Resticent, a well-be-sten last of five on his Yarmouth debut in June, Perhaps the pick will be the Hamdain Al Maldoum-owned Rivermen newcomer Resheefa, with Willis Carson riding, Well-bried Ballet High, third of four behind Liefling at Ascot (1m-4) recently, should prove best of the others, although Guillever, who weers the second colours of Khalid Abdullah, is worth keeping an eye on after a near four-month break.

8	115	PRINCESS ALICE HOSPICE HANDICAP (CLASS 5) SKY £5,000 added 5f Penalty Value £3,664
ī	300241	SOME SAVAGE (11) (CD) (The Square Table) W Musson 8 9 10R Cochrane 9
2	44-0636	THAL MORNANG (SS) (D) (The This Connection) P Harts 3 9 7
3	6315-00	PALEY PRINCE (USA) (7) (CD) (Shine) Partness) M Usher 10 9 6
4	300030	EAFTROMAK (14) M Mac Cartin) G McCourt 4 9 4
5	000515	SQUIRE CORRE (7) (CO) (G Harwood) G Harwood 4 9 3
6	002400	METAL BOYS (26) (CD) (Mass L.C. Social) Mass L. Social 9 9 0
7	0-22002	ANOTHER BATCHWORTH (16) (D Price C Waterfeld C O'Toolei E Wheeler 4 9 O.T Sprake 1
8	0-04	JOHNYS LIGHT (21) (R.) Doveres M. Heaton-Elik 3 8 11
8	033422	HALF TONE (LA) On Okts G M Tegenerment R Romer 4 8 10T Quine 12 8
10	334040	SUPERLAG (BEL) (11) (D) (J) Bridger J Sindger 4 8 0
u	0000000	LOGE PERT LAD (303) (Donald) Smith)) Bridger 4 7 10
12	0-00033	CSCLLIGHTS CEFT (7) BAIs P Stroud) P Burgoine 4 7 10
		- 12 declared -

995: King Rat 4 9 10 W Carson 13-2 (T Etherington) 9 ran

FORM GUEDE
Course specialist GONE SAVAGE was twice unlucky here in finishing second to Magic Mail Course specialist GONE SANAGE was twice unflucly here in firshing second to Magic Mail (poorly drawn and saddle pin broke) and fourth to Squire Corrie (hampered two furifore) out) before winning at Windsor last time (Saperlae) severity and Paley Prince minth of LO).

Willie Musson's eight-year-old meets Squire Corrie (b) worse this evening four he is well drawn and fancial to gain his fifth win over the course and distance. Nithings to Spell'a Both win year-tarday was a boost to Ambither Batichworth, who ran that stell to a length and a quarter at Brighton last time, but she will do well by whith the drawn howest off all. Natif Tone, who have only ever won on the all-weather, is running well, lest time going down a head to Youdonisay at Goodwood (Barrayank eighth). He has the best of the draw. Selections GONE SAVAGE

SALISBURY

1.45 Rasmussen 2.15 GREEN POWER (nap) 2.45 Amazing Bay 3.15 Wilfull Lad 3.45 Altamura 4.15 Misty Cay 4.45 Gonzaga 5.15 Dramatic Moment

STALLS: 5f & 6f - far side; 7f - centre; lingif - stands' side; remail der - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for lif to 71 when going is soft. Richt-hand course, mainly upbill and testing.

Resecourse is 7m south-west of city off A3094. Salisbury tallway station (London, Wisterion-Execter line) is 3m away. Connecting bus service to rourse. ADMISSION: Members 51;: Tattepails 55; Course Enricoure 54 (accompanied under-10s free all enclosures) CAR PARK:

SIS RACING

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Running Free (4.15). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: My Melody Parket (2.45) has been sent 244 miles by J Berry from Cockerlann, Lancashire

1.45 ISLE OF WIGHT MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) BETTING: 4-1 Politic W. (DIV I) £4,250 added 2YO 7f LUDO (19) R Harmon 9 Q. 50 PALAEMON (7) G Balance 90

8		PROLINACION NI HENSYSTE & 9	
9	04	JULIETTA MIA (20) B HBs 8 9	
10	60	SALABATNI (42) E Duntop 89	M Heis 6
11		SWAN ISLAND B Pating 8 9	D H aviso n 9
		- 11 declared -	
BEIT	NG: 5-2	Orontes, 3-1 Reseaseses, 4-1 Sword Aran, 7	-1 Factory Cirl, 8-1
واوها	. 20-2 Ju	letta Mia, 12-1 others.	
		-	
-	4 -	EBF SANDOWN MAIDEN STAK	EG (C! AGG II)
-12	.15	EDE OUTDOMY INVIDENCE	CO (OCTION D)
		TOUR GRACE TIO OI	
1		AMOAS BHILL 90	W (#s 13
2		ARTHUR'S SEAT Lord Huntergron 9 0	L Dettori 7
3	5	GREEN POWER (47) J Farstone 9 0	D Herrison 4
4	5	HATTAB (18) P Water 9 0	# Carson 6
5	03	MERCELESS COP (81) B Meetron 90	
6		MIKADDAR C Bersteet 9 ()	
		POLISH WARROW (13) P Crasple-Heart 9 0	
8		SHARP HAT (20) (BF) R Hannon 9 0	
9	0	SELVER SECRET (11) 1/4 Heazon-Eles 90	Cerroit 14
10	6	SUDEST (21) Balcing 9 0	
11		AR HYD Y 1840S R Charton 89	T Spraise 11
12	5330	LIFE ON THE STREET (44) R Harmon 8 9	
13		MARYTANY Str Mark Prescott 8 9	
14	n	10005 1000 (27) K Ozerberon-Rosen 9 9	. S Whitemarth B

2.45 AMESBURY FILLIES CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £7,650 added 5f 4 43 4201 FLAME VALLEY (11) (D) M STURE 385_

3.15 H S LESTER MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 1m 2f 5-53060 WILFULL LAD (4) Martin Meade 3 8 11. .J Carroll 4 9 5-53997 WARVILL LAD (4) Margin Meade 38 11.
10 -68221 THATICHMASTER (22) C Hogan 5 8 10.
11 642605 SHALAIESNO (13) 8 Milhran 8 8 6.
12 804-000 WARSHITE (14) R (73 Milhran 6 8 5.
13 804-000 WARSHITE (14) R (73 Milhran 6 8 5.
14 312530 RUNC STABOU (7) [0] (87) M Bursthard 5 8 2.
15 000-060 RPSMORTER (44) K Eishop 7 8 0 - 15 declared -BETTING: 3-1 Asisby HBC, 5-1 Thatchmaster, 6-1 Law Dancet. 3.45 UPRVON FILLIES STAKES (CLASS A) (Listed Race) £17,000 added 1m 2f 1168 SARDONIC (11) (CD) H Cect 3 8 9... 32 31 ALTANGRA (5) (D) J Gosden 3 8 5...

21-264 MEN ALHAMA (20) Major W R Ham 3 8 S. 022-200 PARROT JUNIELE (62) J Dunlop 3 8 5.....T Quinn 4 21. TA ANTUM (19) (D) A Stewart 3 8 5... 13-45 WHENT (89) R Hayrort 3 8 5... 9 15-45 Wrent (69) R Regrets 3-5 5 - 9 decimed -BETTING: 11-4 Min Albana, 7-2 Sardonic, 5-1 Flame Valley, 6-1 Ta Avan, 7-1 4.15 BEMBRIDGE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 2YO 7f 650 BROADGATE FLYER (11) W laws 813. 245462 SPONDULICIS (25) R Hannon 8 9 Dense O'Neill (3) 8 515431 DASHING ROCKSHILE (12) (5) M Channon 8 8 Pat Eddary 2 Dens (Tital) (3) 9 SETTING: 5-2 Mistry Cay, 3-1 Desting Rocksville, 5-1 Spondalicia, 6-1 Abacard, 8-1 Broadgale Flyer, 10-1 Grovefair Lad, 12-1 Scarreta, 16-1 others. 4.45 ISLE OF WIGHT MADEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV In £4.250 added 2YO 7f

AMERICAN WHISPER P Hams 9 O. Amorres Milet R Harron 9 O

6 HIGH EXTREME (LA) P Chapple Hyam 9 0... Paul Edday 11 SMART PROSPECT 8 Meeten 90 NAS DAUGHTER (29), P Cole 8 9T Oution 8 BETTING: 11-4 Moon Black, 7-2 Kafef, 5-1 High Extrano, 6-1 Gorcago, 10-1 Beryflum, Chefranies Dangbler, Nomeon Comquest, 12-1 others. 5.15 NEWPORT FILLIES HANDICAP (CLASS E) 1101-00 AYUNU (47) (D) S Williams 5 10 0. 08-3215 DRAMATIC MOMENT (28) (C) | Baiding 3 9 5 ... Martin Dwyor (5) 15 0-544 TURBA (41) Mater D Channel 3 9 4.... 0-603 DALWRINGEE (48) / Hes 39 4 _____ 6-43214 LADY BINNES (23) W Tumer 3 9 3 __ 0-00310 EMDENCE IN CREEF (7) D Elsworth 3 9 2_____ 000 LIZZUM (90) J Fox 4 8 10..... ____ Onton 8 5-0000 RESTERATE (16) G Basing 3 7 13.... 060003 HAWAHAFA (16) R Hannon 3 7 12.... - 15 declared -

RACING RESULTS BATH

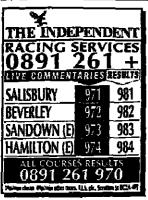
2.00: 1. CHARLTON MP (S Drowner 13-2: 2. Coder Dancer 33-1; 3. Northern Sags 50-1. 14 ran. 7: 2 for First Law Shiha; 5. IR Hodges, Someton, Totate 58,00; 52-20, 57,70, 59,90. DF: £48,10. CSF: £165.01. Tric: Not won, Non DF: £48,10. CSF: £1850-Rumer: Ohrsban Wamor. 2.30; 1. CA'D'ORO (S. Drowne) 8-1; 2.

2.30; 1. CATORIO (S. Dramei 8-1; 2. Sharp Shaffle 7-2; 3. Shermood 16-1; 17 ma. Sh nd, 1"... (G. Balding, Fyfield), Tobe: (9.50; £1.90, £1.20, £5.40, £1.50, £7.180, £5.65; £1.98, £7.180, £7.

3-30: 1. CHUCKLESTONE (I Qurin) 11-2: 2. Bold Classic 8-11 for; 3. Hill Ferra Dencer 2: 1.4 ran. nh., 2: 11 king, Swidoni, Toto: 15:00, DF: 12:50 CSF: 12:63.
4.00: 1. MODRISHT SPELL nit Henry; 9-2: 2. Silk Cottage 9-2: 3. Coll Me Fin Blue 9-1. 7 ran. 7-1 for Mindrace (42n; 2-); 15: 11 Hels, Carboum, Totas: 16:10: 13:10, 12:80, DF: 110:80, CSF, 5:22.77, Imposing Time (7-1) withdrawn not under orders; Rule 4 applies to board procs only, deduction 10p in the pound.
4.30: 1. MAID BY THE FIRE: (Cine O'Neill 8-1, 2. Missecrati Mook 3-1 lan; 3. Another

comber. Tota: £6.90; £2.50, £1.70, £3.80. DF. £13.30, CSF: £30.50, Tncast: £313.30. 5.00: 1. PISTOL (Paul Edday) 5-2 pt fav.

5-90: 1. PISTOL Para Eddar? 5-2 g for 2. Newport Knight 6-1; 3. Tappate 6-1. 8 ran. 5-2 g for Platform Plus (5th), srt-hd, 11: 10. Horgan, Wokungham. Tota: £3.50; £1.40, £1.90, £2.20. DF: £4.60, CSF: £18.20 Tricast: £78.34, Jackpot: not wor. Plus of £42.156, 81 carried fervand to Sundant today). Place 9: £4.059.63. Place 8: £1,059.63. Place 5: £83.33.



SOUTHWELL

2.15; 1. GEORGE ASHFORD (A \$ 5mgh) 4-1; 2. Blue Raven 11-4 fax; 3. Quixol Crossett 20-1, 7 ran, 20, 13, IX Morgan, Melton Mowbray). Tota: £3.90; £2.20, £2.00. DF: Mowbray). Total: £3.90; £2.20, £2.00. DF: £5.40. CSF: £14.10.

2.45; 1. MAGGOTS GREEN IR Johnson! 11-4 co far; 2. No-cattathm 11-4 co far; 4. ren. 11-4 co far; 3. No-cattathm 11-4 co far; 4. ren. 11-4 co far; 7. No-cattathm 11-4 co far; 4. ren. 12-4 co far; 7. No-cattathm 11-4 co far; 4. ren. 12-4 co far; 7. No-cattath, 12-4 co far; 7. No-cattathm 11-4 co far; 7.

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Dramatic Moment (Salisbury 5.15) NB: Lap Of Luxury

3.48: 1. LONGCROFT (R Johnson) evens tox. 2. Desert Chellenger 5-4; 2. Pertoaps Flyer 14-1. 5 ran, 12, 6; (S hettlevell, Mid-deham). Totac £2.20; £1,10, £1,10. DF: £1.10, CSF: £2.48.

(Sandown 6.45)

4.15: 1. TRADE WIND (Nachael Brennan) 5-4 far; 2. Antigeen River 8-1: 3. Leave Light Lady 25-1. 5 nen. ni., 26, U O'Shea, Strat-ford upon Avoru, Toter £1.70; £1.10, £2.30. DF: £8.90, CSP: £9.92. 4.45: 1. RUDTS PRIDE (N Smth) 3-1; 2. Game Dilemma 13-8 fb; 3. Vein Prince 4-1. Gran. nl, 3. IS Bell, Driffeld). Toke: £4.20;

£2.20, £1.30, DF: £3.30, CSF: £8.03.

John Durkan will start training next year from one of Newmarket's most historic yards. He is buying Green Lodge Stables from Tom Jones, who has announced he will retire at the end of the Flat season. "Green Lodge is a 50-box yard and I'll do my best to get it as full as I can, probably with about 40," Durkan said yesterday, "I have a few orders for yearlings starting at Doncaster and working my way through the sales." Durkan, 30, has spent the past three seasons as as-

sistant to John Gosden.

BEVERLEY

2.00 North Ardar 2.30 kish Sea 3.00 Capta Carat 3.30 Double-J 4.00 General Glow 4.30 The

GOING: Good to Firm. STALLS: Inside all races.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5/8-7/100yds.

Eight-hand, oval course. Flat and galloping with easy turns.

Course is time of city off B888. Nottingham station tim. ADMISSEON: Club & 12 (Juntors, 16-2) years, 581; Tatterwalls &8;

Silver Ring & Paddock \$4. CAR PARE: Silver Ring & 12 (admits our time for occuments) promitting free.

BLINESSED PIRST TIME: Floorie'm (2:30) WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: No. LONG DISTANCE BUNNERS: Durinam (2.00) & Shelins Dream (2.00) have been sent 272 miles by R Simpson from West Buckland, Somerses: Triple Term (4.30) & The Swam (5.00) sent 245 miles by J Dankop from Arundel, West Sussex.

2.00 GRAPE LANE SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 1m 4f 122341 DERMAN (LG) R Smoton 5 9 10 ______ A Clark 4 8
111121 NOSEN ARBUR (LG) [27] J G PNRI 6 9 10 ._____ S Copp (5) 5
0 CHESTERS QUEST (9) R HUBINSHEED 4 9 4 _____ W Ryan 6
003-333 NORTH BERR (L4) Mr.S Smath 4 9 4 ____ Partin (5) 1
50:000- PRISSOV (794) G Oktong 9 9 4 _____ Partin (5) 2
0 CRAMBELLA (5 G Keb) 4 8 13 _____ G Parkin (5) 2

- 6 decigned -SETTING: 5-4 North Artist, 7-4 North Bear, 9-4 Durhant, 23-1 Planethoy, 50-1 Crambella, 66-1 Chesters Quest.

2.30 ALLDERS OF HULL CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,200 added 1m 100yds

3.00 STRUTHERS AND CARTER HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,500 added 51 9 P35234 ABLE SHERRIFF (7) (D) M W Easterty 4 8 3 ... 6 Parhito (5) 5 B 10 E52444 ROTHERFIELD PARK (9) (D) C Smith 4 7 1.0 loom Wands (7) 4 Minimum weight: 7s: 10th. True hardsap weight: Rotherfield Park 7s! 2th. BETTPHC: 4-1 Brecongtil Lad, 5-1 The Wast, 11-2 Heaf's Bossinza, 6-1 Cup-tain Cazat, 13-2 Rich Glow, 7-1 Abie Sterfif, 8-1 others.

3.30 CONTRAC-MATION NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,500 added 270 5f

4.30 JOURNAL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 added 270 7f 100yds 4 TREPLE TERM (20) J Dunico 9 0..... SETTIME: 6-4 Stories To Tell, 9-4 Further Outlook, 4-1 Maradi, 5-1 Triple

5.00 CHARLES ELSEY TROPHY (HANDICAP) (CLASS D) £6,000 added 2m 35yds

- 9 dad - > concerning -BETTENS: 7-2 The Swen, 4-1 Embryonic, 9-2 See Victor, Clanele Collect 6-1 Rushen Reider, 8-1 Double Agent, Canolia Smoke, 10-1 others.

HAMILTON 6.00 Lord Avocate 6.30 Hever Golf S 7.00 Tropical Beach 7.30 Gulf Of 8.00 Dil Dil 8.30 Alistars Rocket

GOING: Good to Pirm. GOING: Good to Pirm.

STALLS: im 65yds & 1m If - inside; rest. - stands at DEAW ADVANTAGE: High best for 1m 65yds.

Right-hand undulating course with perveluped loop acceptage to control of town on 87071. Runiton We station (service from Glasgow) im. ADMISSION: Clab 5: stand and Paddock ST (54 for OAPs, disabled & studens couples); accompanied under-16s free all enclosur PARTs. For SIS

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Sheraton Girl (8:30) WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Tropical Bear woo here or Thursday.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Hower Golf Stermer (6.2 stars Recient have been sent 406 miles from Epoom, Surrey Miss (6.30) & Flying Harold (8.30) have been sent 370 M Channon from Upper Lambourn, Berkshire, Dil Dil (8.00) sent 380 miles by W Haggas from Newmarket, Suffolit, Class ty (7.30) has been sent 358 miles by 2 Harris from Enung, Mentalassanythin (6.00) & Natural Key (7.00) have been miles by D Haydu, Lones from Ehrll leaf, Mid Glamongan; Ouges has been sent 304 miles by J FirzGerald from Norton, Not chire.

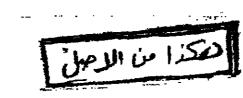
6.00 ARIZONA HANDICAP (CLASS D)
added 1m 5f 9yds 424032 FEELD OF VISION (19) (C) Mrs A Srenbank 6 10 0 044032 ROATING LINE (9) (8F) E Alston 899___ 000202 MENTALASANYTHEN (S) (CII) (EF) D Heydri Jones 003154 ROSSEL (USA) (10) P Norman 3 8 10...... 354233 LORD ADMOCRTE (9) (20) D Norma 8 8 8... 050303 RED SPECIA(2E (6) P Hasiam 4 8 5....

TELLINGS: 7-2 Minister Aspectos, 4-1 Field of Vision, 5-1 Mental Lord Advocates, 11-2 Floating Line, 6-1 Resset, 12-2 Red Spe

6.30 ARIZONA SELLING STAKES (CL.) 000253 PREVER BOLF STORMEN (7) 11 Naughun 8 11 FL 1255 RT CO MMSS (7) (0) M CTANTON 8 11 ... A1
1002 VINDRES WALLY (40) J Bern 8 11 ... A1
1000 MELBOLISME PRINCESS (12) R Whatles 8 5. M Va
5004 SHESHOON ERR. (3) M JOHNSON 8 6... J W
1054 WEDDING WHISC (15) P Harlam 8 6

SETTING 5-2 HR Or Man, 11-4 Helbourne Princete, 3-1 Henry Go 4-1 Shereton Get, 10-1 Where's Wally, 16-1 Westing Marin.

nor 1. (3) 2 BE roll 9 ma	ITBM: 4-1 Rassyel, 5-1 Shining Doucer, 6-1 Glow Forum, 7-1 Dramatic Mo- nt, 8-1 Kristal Brooze, 10-1 Dahvidania, Evidence in Chief, 12-1 others.
	····
	7.00 ARTHUR BALDING HANDICAP (CLASS E)
فاستانك	£5,000 added 6f 1 435605 MESSER WESTSOUND (4) (CD) Mas L Perset 4 (D D
Stormer	J¥99g 18
f Siam	3 77700 PAGENTING IND DUSTON 704
	- other interestation (c) (c) (b)) bety 3 9 3
áde.	2 030TT+ MOTORY MEX (8) (CD) D Heliqu (MES 3 8 0
P. Est Isliway	7 544055 RINGUS MANOR (16) E NISKO 5 8 8
12; Grand- ts, 510 for	- 8 declared - SETTENG: 7-2 Tropical Beach, 4-1 Mister Westmound, Matural Key, 9-2 Pagatoy, 6-1 Patheze, 8-1 Rises Manor, 10-1 others.
res. CAR	
	7.30 ARIZONA MAIDEN HANDICAP SKY
	(CLASS F) £3,800 added 1m3f SMT
sch (7.00)	2 000223 GUEFOFSIAM (11) Mac S U-1 7 0 40
20) & AII-	
ey, Elt Or O miles by	4 060330 SCHOOL OF SCHOOL (§ D Notan 6 7 13 Variety (\$) 5 8 5 40544 BN A TRZZY (\$24) P Hastam 3 7 13 R Minites (7) 3
O has been eak Been	6 IIII-00 BLACK AND BLUES (28) J Golde 10 7 20
g, Saffolk;	SETTING 6-4 Out of Slave 7-4 is a 7-4 is a 7-4 is
en semi 348 gang (8.30)	of Science, 33-1 Rambo's Rustiline, 68-1 Stack And River.
orth York-	
	8.00 ARIZONA CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 3yo
£5,500	
	1 644214 MB.ETRUM CITY (4) (8F) J Berry 9 0
Lymch (2) 3	
796	4 006024 DB DB DB W Harray 0 4
A Maday 1	5 404342 VESHCA UIDY (15) (8F) E Weyman 7 13
Womer 4 Y N Carlisie 5	- 5 declared - SETTINE: 11-4 Society Get, 3-1 Termon, 7-2 Miletrian City, Oli Dil, 9-2 Vegica Lady,
de ₇ (3) 2 B	
Apillon (7) 7	8.30 ARIZONA BEVERAGES MAIDEN HANDAGE
iaconythia.	8.30 ARIZONA SEVERAGES MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,800 added 1m 65yds.
ctacle.	1 6-30233 PHANTOM HAZE (25) Max 5 Hall 3 10 0
4CC C	
ASS F)	4 5/-00066 SHAA SPIN (S) I Provide C
Ljack (3) 4	1-7 : 7 reagion 3 8 13
Mackey 1 carried 2 B	Control was a series of the se
ladey (3) 5	7 265000 CMSANG (22) FicSeald 385
Heaver 6 B I Fortune 8	7 285000 (0)6ANG (23) J FicSerid 38 5 J Wester 3 8 8 063240 SECONDS ANAY (8) J Golde 5 8 J Wester 3 8 9 000-600 BALLYMSSANGEL (23) N Bycn8 3 7 11 N Variey (3) 7 10 0-00060 CARRENOURA (8) E ASSON 4 7 11 N Variey (3) 7
il Siarow,	SETTING: 11-4 Pylong Heroid, 3-1 Stepa Spin, 4-1 Alistone Rocket, 5-1 Scol Lee Stor, 5-1 Plearings Haze, 7-1 Orging, 20-1 Seconds Away, 25-1 others.



A breathing space in Chechnya

The battles may be over – but will the ceasefire last? **Helen Womack** reports

Moscow - Russian and Chechen commanders were reported to have agreed to a ceasefire yesterday, the first sign that the bloody battles over Grozny might be coming to a close -

After eight days of fighting in the Chechen capital, Russian media said that a ceasefire would come into effect at noon today local time. But it was not clear whether whether the ceasefire was intended to be permanent or merely a tempotary measure to allow the evacuation of civilians and wounded. If it holds, it will be a signal victory for Alexander Lebed, President Boris Yeltsin's security chief and envoy to Chechnya. The news came after Russia's

military commander in Chechnya, General Konstantin Pulikovsky, held talks with the rebel chief of staff, Aslan Maskhadov. The meeting began in the early evening in the vil-lage of Novye Atagi, 15 miles south of the regional capital. "The issue of a ceasefire and, possibly, the mechanism for a withdrawal of units and subunits from the confrontation line are expected to be discussed," said the Interfax news agency before the meeting began.

The tentative peace process was set in motion by General Lebed, who on Sunday made a lightning visit to the war zone to meet Mr Maskhadov and returned to Moscow on Monday saving he was optimistic a ceasefire could soon be arranged. However, there was no reaction from the Kremlin yesterday to his criticism of the Russian government's policy in the Caucasus, and the demands he made for sweeping powers to manage the crisis himself.

In all probability, his sharp comments, made at a press conference, will have set off bit-L ter infighting in the corridors of power. In particular, General Lebed will not have endeared himself to the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, a rival even before the general accused the commission Mr Chemomyrdin heads of failing dismally in its handling of Chechnya. A small change occurred in



cent of Grozny. Eyewitnesses said rebels seemed to roam

the streets at will while most of

the Russian soldiers they saw

were dead ones. The toll among

servicemen is now officially 221

ing to flee Grozny. The pro-

Moscow Chechen government complained that Russian forces

were firing on civilians and ap-

pealed to the army to open a

corridor to let them out of the

burning city. "Tens of thousands

of people are trapped... with-out food supplies and with a cat-

astrophic lack of medicine," it

Waves of refugees were try-

killed and 766 wounded.

Russian soldiers carry a dead comrade into a safe area of Grozny during fighting on Sunday with Chechen rebels

week with the express intention

of spoiling President Yeltsin's in-

auguration celebrations, have

run rings round the far larger

and much better equipped

crashing over Grozny as the fed-

eral forces tried to retake key

buildings in the city-centre still

Rebel information chief

Movladi Udugov, who has been

so skilled at presenting Chech-nya's case that General Lebed

himself praised him while say-

ing the Russian spokesmen

should go and "fish and pick

held by the separatists.

Yesterday mortar shells were

Russian army.

Photograph: Vassily Detchkov/AP

escape by melting into the crowd of refugees. The Russian migration service said it had received 10 billion roubles (£1.3m) to cope

with the new homeless. The European Commission in Brussels approved a new aid package for Chechnya, bringing the total assistance since the outbreak of war 20 months ago to nearly £29m. More than 30,000 people have died in the fighting and survivors are desperate for food and medical aid.

■ Moscow (AP) — A correspondent for Russia's largest television station was killed as he and his family tried to leave

Ramzan Khadzhiyev, who covered the North Caucasus for the television station ORT, was shot in the head twice as he was driving out of Grozny with his wife and four-year-old son. In-dependent NTV television aired a brief interview with a passenger in the car who said it was Russian forces who opened fire on the vehicle.

The pro-government ORT suggested the rebels were behind the slaying, and Khad-zhiyev, an ethnic Chechen, had received many threats from the rebels, who accused him of a pro-Moscow bias in his reporting and of betraying his people. He was the 19th journalist to die in the 20-month-old conflict.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

eaders of 300 filegal immigrants fighting to have
their position in France regularised said their protest was
being stepped up and they would now negotiate only with
President Jacques Chirac. They were speaking the day after
police raided the Paris church the group has occupied for
three months and removed 10 hunger-strikers "for medical
checks." All have returned to the church and are continuing their fast. A "rolling hunger-strike" by "star" volunteers for 48 hours at a time has been announced, and the protest is to be extended to more cities. Mary Delevsky - Paris

The first Filipina to admit publicly that she was a Japanese sex-slave during World War Two said that she and six other "comfort women" would accept \$18,500 (£12,300) each in compensation from a much-criticised Japanese fund. Maria Rosa Henson, 68, said she also expected to receive a letter of apology from the Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, without which she would not accept the money. "The apology is more impor-tant to me than the money," Mrs Henson said. "Without the apology, I will not take the money. Reuter - Manila

Krista Sager, co-leader of the Greens, shocked Germany's political third force by announcing she would not seek re-election. The German Greens are Europe's the strongest environmentalist party: they have won office at federal state level and moderates hope to ally with the Social Democrats (SPD) to oust Chancellor Hel-mut Kohl's centre-right coalition in 1998 polls. Ms Sager, who belongs to the wing of the party more inclined to co-op-eration with the SPD, said she would focus on helping the Greens at regional level in Hamburg. Reuter - Bonn

Bulgaria's President, ministers and diplomats joined mourners at the funeral of the psychic Granny Vanga. Vanga, venerated across the Balkans and beyond for her clairvoyant and healing powers, died on Sunday aged 85 after a four-year battle against cancer. Blind from childhood, she was said to have predicted events ranging from the Second World War to the collapse of Communism and her own death. Reuter - Rupite

Police arrested three former Bangladeshi army officers in connection with the 1975 assassination of the independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Retired army colonel Farook Reehman, ex-colonel Shahriar Rashid Khan and retired major Mohammad Khairuzzaman are to face trial for murder and for rebelling against a legally-installed government. Reuter - Dhaka

A French mountaineer, Jean-Christophe Lafaille, set a world record by climbing two Himalayan peaks more than 8,000m high (26,240ft) in less than four days. Lafaille, 31, climbed Gasherbrum II, 8,035m, then Gasherbrum I, 8,068m, in the Baltoro region of Pakistan on 28-31 July. Reuter - Grenoble

Ducharest's street children will train stray dogs as belpmates for the handicapped in a programme tackling two of the city's worst social problems. Initially 20 children living rough will be helped for two years to train strays which will then be given to the blind, the deaf and the immobile. Reuter - Bucharest

Thirty monkeys that were killed when they touched a high-voltage wire were given a mass burial by priests from the Lord Pashupatinath temple. Nepal's holiest. An official said monkeys were gods and that more ceremonies were to be performed for them today. Reuter - Kathmandu

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said. The army apparently disbullying elephant. raspberries at their dachas", Certainly the Chechen rebels, claimed yesterday that the seplikes the idea of a corridor bethe Kremlin yesterday with the who infiltrated Grozny last aratists controlled 75 to 80 per Old and infirm left to suffer daily ordeal of bombardment

The people living in Cher-norechiye had no knowledge of any ceasefire yesterday. They came under mortar attack midmorning as planes circled overhead, stretching their nerves to

This district on the south-west edge of Grozny showed the signs of heavy bombardment from the last week of fighting.

Smashed tree branches lay in deserted streets pockmarked with mortar craters. People hung around outside their apartment buildings, not venturing far into the courtvard in case another mortar whistled in.

It was noon when the latest attack began. The night had been quiet, residents said, although they still all slept in their cellars. "We heard that Moscow announced an end to air strikes but the planes bombed again vesterday and today, just look what happened," said one Russian woman pointing at the crater and shrapnel marks gouged in the side of the building. "It was a deception. They de-

ceive us every time." she added.

Civilians are still awaiting relief from war, reports Carlotta Gall in Grozny

courtyard where a second mortar fell, an old woman was killed outright and a one-year-old baby, hit in the head by shrapnel, had been taken to the hospital, residents said.

departure of President Yeltsin's

press spokesman, Sergei Medvedev, a young journalist

who, at his own request, was re-

turning to the ORT state tele-

vision channel where he used to

work. Lately the television has

seemed almost as restricted as

in Soviet times although one

anchorwoman, Arina Sharapo-

va, has let it be known by small

comments that the journalists

are disgusted by the war in

Chechnya. It was probably not accidental that, the other night,

the news was followed by a

popular Caucasian cartoon

about a tiny ant outwitting a

The elderly victim lay in the cellar under white sheets as neighbours gathered to dig another grave. The garden of an abandoned psychiatric hospital was being turned into a cemetery for the dozens who had been killed, one woman said.
"We buried five people in a

single grave," said Khesir Dzhapkayev, a telephone engineer. He just escaped injury this time, bolting into the cellar where his family of four children and his mother were sheltering. Some 20 to 30 people were in the bunker, a dark warren of

nooks and crannies. People ducked under water pipes, light-ing their way with matches. Mr This time, only one man was Dzhapkayev's paralysed moth-

slightly wounded, but in the next er lay on the earthen floor on

a mattress in a tiny pantry. "This is the third time we have had to live down here. It is an absolute nightmare," he said, shaking from the strain. This is not even safe - how do I know it will not be hit with a penetration bomb? The fear is real. Less than a

block away a penetration bomb had torn through every floor of an apartment building, blasting right down into the cellar. The only people left in Chernorechive are, as in the early days of the war, the old, the infirm and many Russians who, unlike the Chechens, have no

family network to help them. Chechen refugees were still pouring out of this district, driving along the tram lines, crossing two dangerously precarious bridges over the Sunzha River, half patched up since they were destroyed in the first battle. Families with small children

and old women scrambled down a muddy bank as the men frantically pushed cars along the rails. Mortars had landed in the field beside them minutes before. A grandmother collapsed, her family in tears.

The sound of heavy artillery explosions rolled across from the centre of the city every five or 10 minutes - less intensive than in recent days, but still more or less constant. A silent procession followed:

a young man carrying a wounded, retarded boy and a group bearing a woman on a mattress, who was unconscious, her face marked by shrapnel. Behind them the sky was

black from four fires burning in the western district where Grozny's oil refinery appears completely destroyed.
The Chechen fighters mean-

while, who have the run of the district, said they would demand by Russia before easing up their stranglehold on Russian positions. The war will not end until their troops leave," said Aslan, 21, as he walked back from fighting in the centre.

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There's a great deal going on

Bosnia set for imperfect poll

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY Defence Correspondent

The Bosnian elections in a month's time will fall far short of Western democratic standards, United States officials said yesterday, as the Secretary of State Warren Christopher conferred with Nato civilian and military leaders in Brussels. But the Nato Secretary-General, Javier Solana, stressed

how much had been achieved in the past eight months, since the Nato-led peace implementation force (I-For) moved into the war-torn country. A State Department spokesman, Nicholas Burns,

said: "These are not going to be pristine conditions for these elections. This is not going to look like a town in Germany or France ... on election day. We're not going to create these conditions in the next 31 days".

The admission came as the commander of the Nato-led

ground forces in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker, helped defuse a confrontation with the Bosnian Serbs who had refused to allow Nato troops to inspect part of a heavy weapons storage site as they were entitled to do under the Dayton peace agreement. Dr Solana and General

George Joulwan, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, had visited the Bosnian Serb capital of Pale on Monday afternoon to secure formal agreement that the site could be inspected. But, as so often happens in Bosnia, it took time for the agreement to filter down to the commanders on the ground, and a Nato source in Sarajevo said it "came as a surprise" to many Serb leaders.

Early yesterday morning General Walker took the new Bosnian Sorb President, Biljana Playsic, in a helicopter to the arms site at Han Pijesak. 30 miles east of Sarajevo, where the of refugees from voting in their the elections.

Bosnian Serbs had refused to places of origin, as Dayton allow Nato inspection teams access on Monday. Nato officials said the move was, in part, to test the influence of Dr Playsic, who replaced the indicted warcrimes suspect Radovan Kar-adzic as President. General Walker returned to Sarajevo late vesterday morning, after completing the inspection.

Brussels, to discuss the support I-For might provide for the forthcoming elections which aim to create common institutions for the whole of Bosnia, above the two "entities" - the Muslim-Croat Federation and the Republika Srpska. Although the Dayton peace agreement aims to maintain a unified, multi-ethnic Bosnia, in reality Bosnia is now firmly partitioned. The three factions have consistently tried to deter and other international organ-Bosnia's hundreds of thousands

allows them to. Mr Burns said Mr Christo pher would discuss this with the Presidents of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia in Geneva today, along with the harassment of the media and the failure of local

authorities in Bosnia and the

governments of neighbouring

states to hand over indicted war

Mr Christopher met Dr Solana and General Joulwan in Having completed the hand-Having completed the handover of large areas under the Dayton agreement and separated the armed forces of the former protagonists, I-For's 50,000 troops are now primarily concerned with creating the best possible conditions for the elections. This includes opening up roads and "creating the environment" in urban areas. Some 2,000 monitors from the Organisation for Security

and Co-operation in Europe

isations are expected to oversee



Independent and the Independent on Sunday. Independent Fantasy Football, supported by Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs, brings you the first real innovation in fantasy football allowing you to pick the playing formation of your team. You can opt for a defensive strategy with five defenders, three midfielders and two strikers in a 5-3-2 formation or go on the attack strikers in a 5-3-2 formation, or go on the attack with three strikers in a 4-3-3 line-up. Complete your team with a goalkeeper and a Premiership manager and you'll be ready for kick-off. To put your title-winning team together you have a budget of £40 million to spend. It is up to you how you spend the money, with no restrictions on the number of players you can choose from any one Premiership team. Look carefully and you will find some real bargains, with Alan Shearer on sale for the fantasy price of £11.1 million!

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HOW TO ENTER

4 Defenders, 4 Midfielders, 2 Strikers FORMATION B. 4-3-3 FORMATION C. 5-3-2 5 Defenders, 3 Midfielders, 2 Strikers FORMATION D. 3-5-2
3 Defenders, 5 Midfielders, 2 Strikers



HOW TO ENTER

One manager from the list below. Players can only play in the positions that they are listed under and the team's total value must not exceed £40 million. Remember to give your team a name.

Use our Team Selection form above right, to make a note of your team's details, then dial our registration belone of the control of

Where possible, please try to use a tone telephone, although a traditional pulse telephone can be used if necessary. Make sure you follow the instructions on the phoneline carefully. At the end of your call you will be given your own special PIN number, which you must keep safe. It can be added to your Team Selection form.

HOW TO SCORE

Every time one of your players scores a goal you will be award-You are free to enter as many teams as you wish, allowing you ed four points. Four points will also be awarded for goalkeepers to try out more than one tactical formation, but each team must and defenders whose team have kept a clean sheet during a match be made as a separate entry via a separate telephone call.

Once you have chosen your formation, select your team of ference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded one bonus point in addition to the stan-

dard four points awarded for that goal. Each successful assist (a pass that, in the opinion of our team of experts, leads directly to a goal) will give a player three points. The opinion of our experts on this matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

Players lose one point for a yellow card and three for a red card. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count for

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The Premiership manager that you choose will be awarded three points if their real-life team win, one point if they draw and no points if they lose.

Results will be published in The Independent every

Wednesday for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sun-

day, in the Independent on Sunday. Look out for transfer opportunities which will be announced during the season, Please read the Rules and Conditions carefully before making your call.

Team Selection Form Code Name Goalkeeper Defender 1 Defender 2 Defender 3 Defender 4 Defender 5 Midfielder 1 Midfielder 2 Midfielder 3 Midfielder 4 Midfielder 5 Striker 1 Striker 2 Striker 3 Manager PIN No.

POINT SCORES: 4 points for a goal 🖿 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet = 3 points for a successful assist = I point when a player is selected and plays • 1 point for a winning goal **3** points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw ■ Lose I point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3 points

for a red card

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CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	VALUE (£m)
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308	Filan 🖰	COV	1.5	468	Walsh	LEI	2.2	604	Parlour	ARS	2.4	698	Jones	SW	2.0	867	Beardsley	NEW	4.4
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RULES AND CONDITIONS
1. Unly entree mark via The Independent Independent of the 1998 World Complete the new World

عكذا من الملصل

Whistle up a world of wide horizons

SO YOU WANT TO... **BE A FOOTBALL** REFEREE

By Mike Richards

A passport to paradise is one view. A ticket to a torrent of abuse is more likely to be the other. But love them or loathe them, football needs referees.

Newcastle United might spend £15m on a new striker, but, however much the Gallowgate faithful rant and rave at his decisions - and it is always "his" in the Premiership - if there is no man in black, green, blue or whatever they are forced to vear these days, there is no match.

And as there are a lot of matches every week in Britain, referees are always in

You can always have a game of football rithout a referee, but football depends on eferees to be administered properly and have competitions, so we play a vital role, aid Peter Willis, the president of the Eng-ish Referees Association (RA). We are always looking for more. There are 45,000 registered in clubs in England and post field more than two teams each

eek, that is more than 100,000 sides." There are 32,500 referees in England. About 5.500 are recruited every year, but he total stays remarkably static. You can start young (though only those over 16 can referee adult matches), and continue un-

All it takes to qualify is a 12-hour course mastering the 17 laws of the game, with an eral and written exam at the end. The courses are administered by the local branches of the RA spread across Britain and are being run all the time.

"We have no particular bias towards any-one," Willis said. "We have every walk of life in the world of referees and we do not even think about anything like ethnic background. If you are good enough, we will take

So what makes a good referee? "In the modern age, if you want to progress, you have to be fit. You need man-management skills, a love of the game and the ability to decide 'is it or isn't it'. Those who first come along to the course usually get a shock. They do not appreciate that the laws are simple. Other people make them complicated."

Willis admits some are put off the critiçism and abuse from players, managers and ans, but insists it is not an important facfor. "If a supporter does not agree with you, they will tell you. That's a fact of life. It would be awful if there was no one shoutno time for it, but it is nowhere near as bad às people make out."

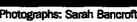
Just as on the promotion pyramid for clubs, referees can climb the ladder. If you pass the initial course, you become a class three official and referee at the lowest

All referees are marked by the teams in he matches they officiate and if the marks are good enough at the end of a season, they are promoted, eventually becoming a class one and moving up the leagues, each time running the line at a higher standard hefore referecing there. In theory, a referee who qualifies this season could be running out in the Premiership in seven or eight years. From there, the world is

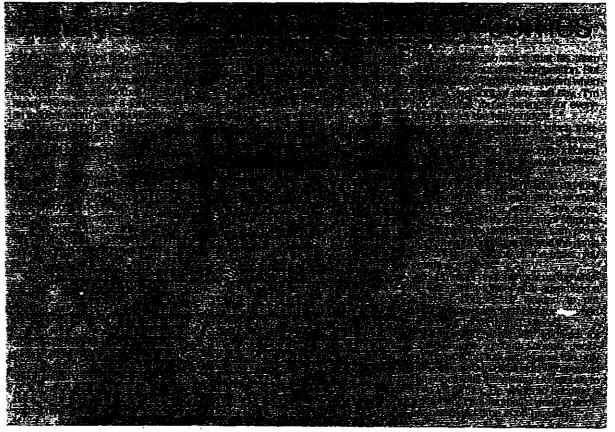
"There is football in South America, Asia, Australia and Europe. In this world of football we have today, referees from England take charge of games in all competitions, said Willis, who refereed in the Football League for 28 years. "It is a passport to world travel. A passport to paradise. If I was 35 years old . . .



Dave Higgs, 70 (above), has been a referee for 37 years. Mark Savage, 15, and his mother, Liz (below), both spend their weekends taking charge on the pitch







JUST THE TICKET: a weekly guide to what's on where for the spectator

GOLF: Tomorrow: Weetabu Women's British Open (Matum, to Aug 18). GOLESTRIAN: Tomorrow: Derby meeting Hickstead, to Aug 18).

Picicisead, tr Aug 18.

RACING (Flat meetings in explinis): Tofary BEVERLEY Cut. £12; Juner Cut. 116
£2.1-year-alds) £8; Tatterralis £8; Säver
fang £3; Course Enclosure £2; Penc area
£2 or £2 per car, plus £2 per occupant,
£10. MAMILTON: Cut. £12; Grandstand
åad Pradock £7 1£4 for ORPs, disabled
& Edudents, £10 for coupless; accompased under-168 free all enclosures 6.6.0.
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£8; froe all enclosures1. (2.15).
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£45; Tomograve £8; ENCENTES a Yesferton, (2.0); \$ALSBURY: as Yesf gssals 58.50, Course EA. Accompanied under 16s free, (5.50). Priday: CATTER-EX: Out £11; Tattersals £7; Course £2.50 INC OLD ELL Tamersals £7: Course £2.50.
Ander-16s free into all onclosures).
[155]. POLICESTONE: Cuch £12 lunder16s free!; Tamersals £8.50; Pictuc Pamildone, plus £4 for each occupent.
£2.01. MAYDOCK: County Stand £14; Tottersals £8; Nexton Stand £14; Tottersals £8; Nexton Stand £16; Tottersals £8; Salier Rog £3 (OAPs half pince). (£2.10).
Each MAYDOCK: American £13 (United to the pince). (£13 (Mayor Mayor Ma

ngition). OTBALL: Fridey: Nationwide League: anchester Oty v Ipswich (7,45). Ranchester City v Ipswech (7.45).

CHICKET: Toworrow: Britannic AnsurJance Champjornship: Dertyshre v Notdeglamshure (Derbyl: Gloucestershre v
Vorschre (Bristo): Nent v Somerset (Cangrbur): Lamashrev v Hampshire (Idd Talfprd): Middleser v Worcestershre (Lord's)
(Lamveckshire v Glamorgan (Eddysstam):
Towntot Matchie TCCB 20 v South Africa 'A'
(Four days, Chester-Le-Surver): Other Hetche England Under 19 v New Zealand
(Inder 19 (Marcester): Second Youth
Tost Match (rour days): Bain Hogg Trophy
Symmistrots. kucey League: Friday: Stones Super pague: Warrington v Oldham (7.30). prepayar (7,30 unless stated). Tomor-gar: Premier Languet (psach v Victor). Amotor: Meddlesbrough v Scottish

way: Star Cup quarter-final, first leg: Lon don v Petartorrugh. Thursday: Premie League (three matches): Conference League (one match).

This weekend Saturday

FQOTBALL: See Weekend Piltures and Pools Guide (page four) and Pick of the Day. RUGBY LEAGUE: Shones Supper League: Casileford v Paris; London Broncos v Wigan. Helifax, Stateless World Cape England v Prance (3.0); Scotland v Japan (5.3) COLD Treatment of the cold that the cold tha BOWLS: Women's World Outdoor Champtonship (Learnington Spa).
MOTOR SPORT: British Superbike Championship (Wroddiell).

WAY: Premier League fifree match-CRICKET: Tetley's Challenge Series; Essex y Patesan (Cheimstord). Other Mistels: Scotland v Ireland (Three days, Linkingow, Boghull CC). Sunday

FOOTBALL FA Carting Premierahip: Southernpton v Chelsea (4:0). Mation-wide League First Division: Birmingham City v Crystal Pales (1:0). Second Di-vision: Shrawsbury Town v Wycombe Shrewsbury Town v Wycombe rots (3.0).

PICK OF THE WEEK

SATURDAY/Football FA Carling Premiership: Wimbledon v Manchester United Selhurst Park, Crystal Palace.

The nation cannot seem to get enough. The memories of the re-cent European Championship still remain fresh in the mind and

have only served to wet the national appetite for further-com-petition. After British clubs invested millions of pounds in many of the world's finest players during the close season, the pos-bring ends as competitive football begins again. The Premiership champions, Manchester United, travel south to London for their first feature of the new season. Their squad has been strengthened by foreign signings Karel Poborsky and Jordi Cruyff and, under the captaincy of Eric Cantona, will again set the standard for the rest of the Premiership to follow.

Alex Fenguson has spent in excess of £7m on new players dorto match that financial outlay but will relish the opportunity to in addition to a full Premiership programme, the newly named

In addition to a full Premiership programme, the newly harmed Nationwide Leagues also commence this weekend providing enough football to satisfy the nation's appetite.

How to get there: The ground is allowed 10 whites well sway from Safrans BR station. Insite will run around every 20 mentes from London Victoria BR station. Telephone BR on 0.271-928-50.0 for event sines and connections.

Admission prices range from 6.12-630 from few tickets remain for listenable to the gineral public of the time of going to press. Telests remain for listenable on the fine of going to press. Telests remain for listenable on 0.281-771-8841. for additional dicter information, Kick-off is et 3pm.

GOLF: Westable Women's British Open

(Wolum).

RACING: BRIGHTUN: Cub E12 (accompaned under 165 free): Tatlessals DS; Siver Ring E4 (fine E4 per cart. (2.30).

POMIERRACT: Cub E12; Reddock E8; Siver Ring E3.50 (2.15).

CYCLING: Lowds intervational Classic. The world's top road moors fock to Leeds this weekend led by Tour de France winner Barrio Res. England's most important road race of the year will also feature the finest domestic road races as Bright Olympic medialists, Max Scanish and Chris Boardman, will also compete. Large crowds are expected along the 145-mile roads through the city of Leeds and near-by Wast Virialing accuracy. Admission is fice for spectators. Telephone the Leeds International Hoteline on 0113 247 8372.

CRECKET: AXA Equity & Law Language Depughare v Notrogicarishne (Deby): Councerstane v Yorkshire (Bristol); Kent v Somerset (Canterbury); Lancashire v Hampshire (Old Trailord); Middlesse v Horoestershire (Lord); V Varvadeshire v Glanorigan (Edglesston). MOTOR SPORT; International Touring Car Championable (Sherstone), British Sa-perblim Championable (Vnockhil).

Next week ATHLETICS: Monday: Bupa Challenge in-ternational meeting (Geneshead). Unford Chastle will make his 63rd and final ap-pearance for Britan at the Bupa Challenge pediance or them as one own, unamage, against a select American team, The fastest man on earth, and new Olympic champi-on, the Canadian Donovan Selecy Wil also un in the JOOM misleng sure box Christie's last race will be of the highest standard, Yes-

as Sanderson and the Olympic heptathion bronze medalist, Denise Lawls, will compete in the javelin while Colin Jackson and Tony Jamet I take on the Olympic champson Alien Johrson. Tutests are priced at £12 for adults and £1 for children. Telephone who has office at Gateshead, on 0391-478 5555, for additional information. POOTBALL: Mondey: FA Carling Premierably: Userpool vi Assensi (8.0). Taseday: Defa Cup preliatinisary round, Second leg: Barry (Mail (1) vi Vessa Badosst (Fant) (3); Cetter (b) vi Cette (b) vi Cette (c); Abandeen (d) vi Zaigles Virtus (Lift) (1). FA Carling Premierably Leeds

closures. (2.15). Leicester. Club £12; 720urssite £8; Silver Ring £4. (accompand under-16e free). (5.40). Whether: Club £12; Tettersells £8; Silver Ring £4. (2.50). Planupfora. Members £12; Tettersells £8; Course £4. Car Parte £4 (centre érourse) & £1. (5.30). Tenesters Palitestone: Club £12 (under-168 free); Tettersells £8.50; Pionic Park £4 per cer, plus £4 for each occupant. (2.20). Verte Courty Stand £32; Tattersells £15; Silver Ring £5 (DAPs £2.50); Course Endouere £3 (DAPs £1.50). (Discounts for 3-day bedges). (2.05).

Plan ahead

The £9m velodrome in Manchester was opened in 1994 by the Princess Royal and will be the cycling venue for the 2002 Commonwealth Games. Later this month it hosts the 1996 World Track Cycling Chemplorships. Made of Sibenan pine, the main track measures 250 metres in length and is Britain's first purpose-built indoor racing track.

The competition consists of 12 track disciplines for men and women. Highly changed sprinting and sapping pursuit races will all feature in addition to points racing, for the first time nations will have to quality via the World Cup Series which concludes in June.

try to the event. The rest of the lineup is likely to feature competitors from as far adeld as Argentina, Netherlands and Trinidad.

The recent successes of Chris Boardman, (in the Tour de France and the Olympic Games) and his continuing rivalry with Graeme Obree have increa Chris Boardman will be attempting

to consolidate his position as Britain's premier cyclist while Obree will be eggar to defend his 4,000 metres title after a disappointing Olympics. Tickets are now selling fest for the first two days of com-patition, when Obree and Board. petition, when Obrea and Board-man are likely to race one another. in addition to this intriguing domestic battle, the event will also feature many of the world's finest cyclists fresh from Olympic successes.

The Netional Cycling Cantra, Manchester Velocitome, Stant Street, Manchester MCI. The server is 15 minutes by car from Plocadilly railway station in Manchester city cantra. The route to the veloditome is signed on all major routs from the city and has eccess for the dissoled.

Wednesday 20th August 1996 to Sunday 1st September. 28th Aug: September. 28th Aug: Sept. 12mon/Spm-Spm; 29th: 4pm-Spm; 3da: 10.30em-11.30em/Spm-Spm; 1st Sept. 3pm-7pm.

Details of forthcoming events with information on tickets and venues should be sent to: The Sports Desk, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL Pax 0171 293 2894.

Compiled by Alister Morgan

Like the MP for Leeds Central, I too watched the Headingley Test match from the Western Terrace. albeit on "well-behaved" Friday your correspondent's description of the second-day crowd. Any sug-

gestion that this section of the ground was a hot-bed of racist unrest is far removed from the truth. Two things seemed to charge the atmosphere and upset the ster alcohol and, curiously, Mexican waving. The chief wave-raiser was summarily ejected from the ground

for his antics and the bar closed to

punish his waving minions. As far the alcohol abuse goes, the advertising hoardings and on the England players' shirts was for Tetley Bitter. With this overt encouragement to drink the sponsor's brew coupled with the bar opening even before the start of play, what atmosphere were they really expecting? Maybe the TCCB officials should be sponsored by Virgin for their extreme naïvety.

Hellifield, North Yorks From Mr M Fox

ANDREW ROSE

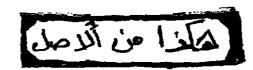
You report [Olympic athletes face MIKE FOX ban, 6 August] that only two track and field athletes in Atlanta have been caught using steroids. Does anyone in the International Olympic Committee seriously imagine that this comes within a million miles of indicating the truth about drug use at the Olympics?

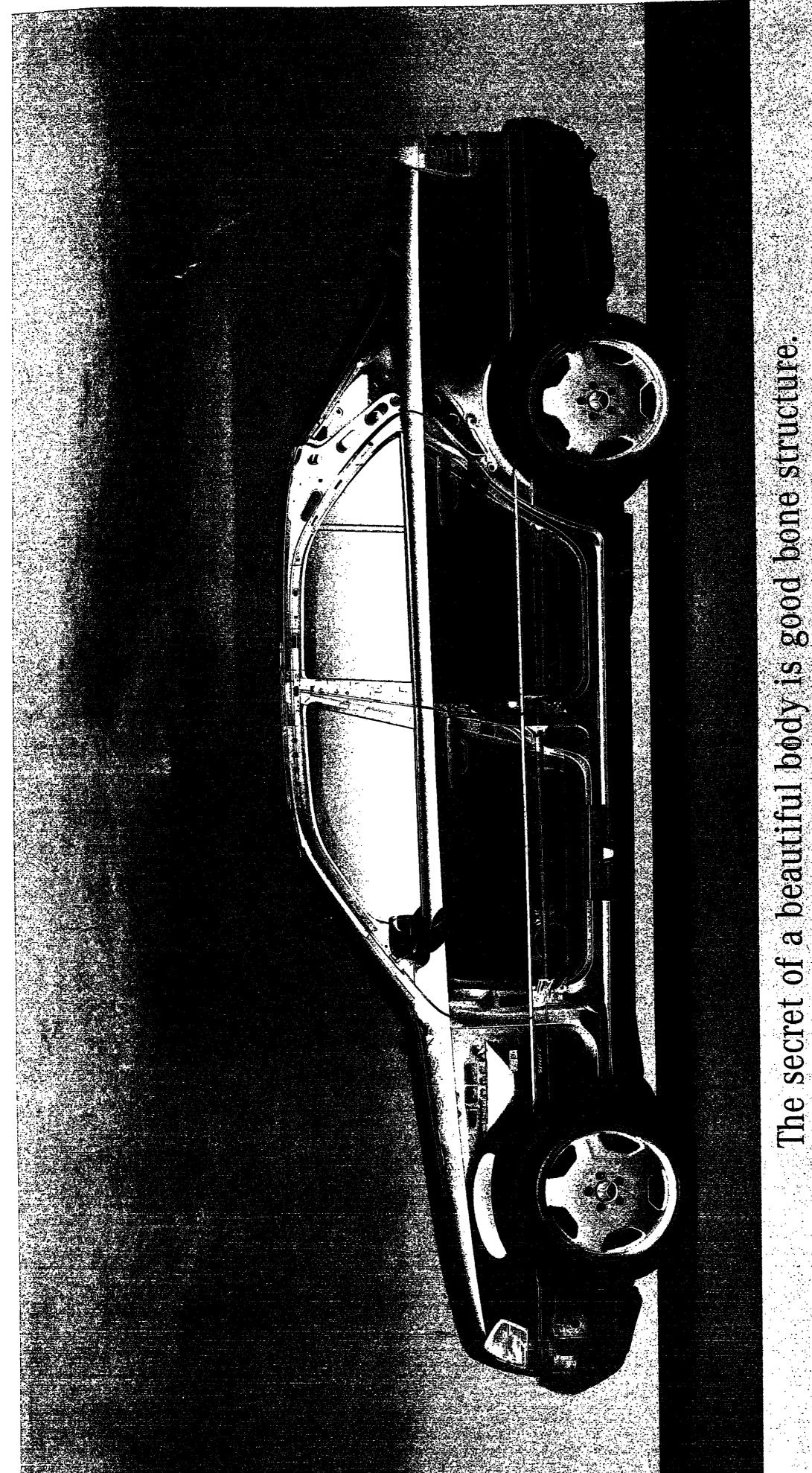
The difference between gold may be edited for reasons of space

and nowhere in some Olympic track events can be measured in tenths of a second. For the average athlete, that's the difference between wealth, fame and the adulation of his contemporaries, and a lifetime of anonymity. I must say, if I were 40 years younger and blessed with athletic ability, I might well have a shot at the old stanozolol myself, particularly if I the Test and County Cricket Board were convinced that my rivals were clearly wants to have its pint and on the stuff. What your report sugdrink it. The most striking motif on gests to me is that drug testing is merely cosmetic; a device to convince the public the sport is clean.

It's time the media and the authorities admitted that; a) the huge rewards now available to top athletes make drug use inevitable; and b) the tests are only catching a small fraction of the culprits. What the IOC ought to do, if they want to avoid accusations of largescale hypocrisy, is make the use of drugs permissible. Although whether Britain would excel in that kind of contest is open to question.

Letters should be marked "For publication" and contain daytime and evening telephone numbers They should be sent to Sports Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, London E14 5DL. They





'ul body is good bone structure. The secret of a beauti

Our photograph gives a glimpse under the What you are looking at is part of its safety structure, it is constructed with high-strength

skin of a Mercedes C-class.

In an accident. It makes the body of the Mercedes That helps prevent the effects of ageing C-class unusually firm and rigid.

and contributes to its unusually long life.

steel and welded with high-strength joints.

They are more efficient and far more reliable And before we apply the foundation we than cheaper metals.

electrical systems.

finishes, we apply six protective layers.

clean the base metal with ostrich feathers.

They remove any traces of grease more Put all these things together and you will see why a Mercedes lasts so long and keeps Its looks so long. Though we think in terms of And it not only protects you and your family

Look a little deeper and you will find sliver of grant the paintwork (in a choice of seventeen

They remove any traces of grease more in a choice of seventeen

They remove any traces of grease more found.

decades, we work to an accuracy of 0.01 mm That is less than the thickness of your skin.

Mercedes-Benz
Engineered like no other car.

Our shield against a gun culture

The Conservative majority on the sales - and the obligatory "thousands Commons home affairs committee, which does not anyway have a great track record in sophisticated judgement, yesterday produced one of its most perfunctory and inept reports yet. However, the MPs' glib and complacent conclusion brought the gun lobby out in its true colours: the Dunblane parents, we learnt, were a "screaming mob" who are trading on sympathy and working to maintain the moral high ground.

Among all the opinions expressed in this inevitably charged argument, that attempt by shooting enthusiasts to blame the row on the victims of the Dunblane massacre - the slaughter of 16 children and a teacher with legallyheld and licensed weapons - was the most contemptible. So much for the dispassionate and rational debate that the gun lobby claims it wants to invoke. The plain truth, as it knows, is that it is fighting the steepest of uphill battles to get public and political opinion on its side.

That is why the Shooters' Rights Association, the trade association for gunsmiths and distributors, has turned to the gimmick – for it can be little more of threatening to sue the Central Scotland police force for giving Thomas Hamilton a gun licence. The threat allows the association to mount the argument that millions of pounds in gun

of jobs" – are in danger of being lost.

There is grand talk about a fighting fund. A lobbying campaign has been specifically targeted on Conservative MPs. Attempts have been made to throw doubt on studies tending to show a link between gun ownership and gun homicides. That includes one cited in the Home Office's evidence to the Cullen inquiry, which shows that gun killings in the United States, where the gun culture is entrenched, are more than 50 times higher than in the UK; for those involving handguns the figure is 150 times higher.

The main aim of the lobbying exercise to obscure the core issue - namely, whether inconvenience for gun enthusiasts and a slimmed-down gun industry is a price worth paying to reduce the chances of further mass murder.

And what of the Tories on the home affairs committee? They have lived up to their growing reputation for either second-guessing what ministers or the establishment or the Conservative Party is likely to want to hear, or for creating a fall-back position for the Government if things get sticky. Not for the first time, there is a suspicion of supposed party loyalty over-riding the duty of impartial analysis. Given the adverse reaction from even some Tory colleagues, they have seriously



ing oral evidence on a single day, they not only rejected a total or partial ban on handguns, but also the less draconian compromise that handguns be stored centrally at shooting clubs and that possession of assembled handguns be permitted only at licensed premises.

The nub of their reasoning appears to be that, since any proposed restrictions would not stamp out illegal possession of handguns, and since lawful and unlawful access to shotguns or manually loaded rifles would con-

misread the political wind. After tak- tinue, further controls would have little practical value. They throw in, for good measure, the notion that mass killers would simply resort to other methods, such as bombs, or poison gas.

All that is beside the point. No one is suggesting that the possession of illegal guns – invariably the case with firearms used by criminals – is other than a matter for serious concern and action in its own right. That has not prevented successive tightening of gun laws from the earliest controls in the 1824 Vagrancy Act to the 1988

the wake of the Hungerford massacre of 1987, banned many of the most dangerous weapons, such as self-loading rifles and semi-automatic shotguns. Are the MPs really saying that the 1988 measure was misconceived and unnecessary? The reality is

that it did not go far enough.

The goal should be dramatically to reduce the number of guns in private ownership. The outlawing of all handguns except single-shot competition pisgons except single-snot competition pis-tols, to be stored at licensed club pre-mises, would go a long way to achieving that, and would not outlaw pistol shooting as a sport for those who want to participate in it. Lord Cullen and the Government should settle for nothing less.

Of course, it would still be possible for criminals to acquire revolvers and use them. No set of controls is ever going to be watertight. But it would make it much harder for a madman to wander off on a shooting spree with a small armoury under his jacket.

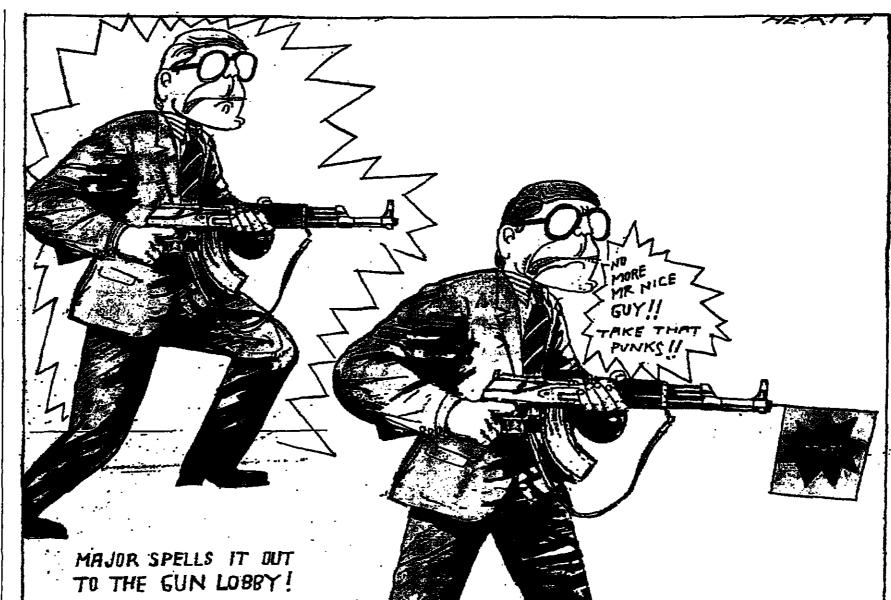
Handguns are primarily designed to shoot people - they are only incidentally a sporting weapon. If confined to sport, held only under lock and key in properly licensed gun clubs, they will pose little threat to the rest of us; only when kept and traded illegally would they pose a problem. If we want to stall the development of a gun culture in Britain, then we should ban the pri-

Firearms (Amendment) Act, which, in vate, domestic possession of all handguns. It is not only simple - it is also popular, and it will work. It passes all the best tests for effective legislation to cure an obvious social ill. There should be no party political argument - just a straight, across-the-board commitment to get on with it.

Why the Slowgo is a no-no

The Greenpeace Slowgo (originally a Renault Twingo) is an attempt to show how much lighter and cheaper it could be to run a popular European car. By fitting a family car with the size of engine used only by medium-paced gokarts in Britain, the pressure group has doubled its fuel consumption and halved its machismo. This goes against almost everything the British want and expect from their cars. Not only is the engine smaller and more expensive, the creature comforts are 10 years out of date. The windows - imagine! - are wound by hand. No bull bars for sweeping children out of the way. Top speed is only 20mph more than is legal on motorways. Anyone would think it was designed as a means of transport, rather than an expression of the owner's personality and station in life. It will never catch on.

- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -



Turn down the glare and save energy

Sir: Karen Bakker ("Light fantastic that will snuff out the stars", 12 August) has rightly drawn attention to the increasing problem of light pollution in the UK. What needs to be said in addition is that this trend Aruns counter to government policy

to cut back on carbon dioxide emissions. It is particularly worrying that the Millennium Commi should be encouraging this development. In case it should be thought that carbon emissions attributable to lighting are of little consequence it should be noted that lighting already accounts for the highest energy cost in the commercial buildings sector.

It is government policy to realise a substantial reduction in energy consumption within its own buildings, though it still has a considerable way to go to achieve its goal. In the light of this policy, should not the Millennium Commission be required to demand evidence of energy saving in all the construction enterprises it supports? As a first step, all bidders should be required to submit projects to the Government's own Energy Design Advice Scheme, funded by the DTI. This would at least ensure that projects met reasonable energy conservation criteria in basic design terms. Professor PETER F SMITH Chairman, Environment and Energy Committee Royal Institute of British Architects

Sir: You are right to be concerned about light pollution, but I feel you are targeting the wrong causes.

The light flooding the country in

your photograph comes from badly designed sports field lighting, overlit car parks, widespread use of light fittings with poor optical control and (probably most significantly) light reflected from light-coloured road surfaces. These are the real problem, not a few floodlighting

schemes like Croydon Skyline.
Sensitive floodlighting schemes designed by skilled professionals, using quality lighting equipment, enhance our enjoyment of architecture and have minimal environmental impact. Most of the complaints registered in the Institution of Environmental lealth Officers survey cited by Dr Baddiley were about intrusive glare from domestic security lights. Strictly, this is a problem of light trespass, not light pollution. MARK SAUNDERS E-mail: mark.saunders@ldms.co.uk

Sir: Your article somewhat misrepresents the thrust of the Croydon Skyline Lighting Project and the environmental benefits that would flow from it.

Croydon Skyline is underpinned by urban lighting strategies with the aim of climinating light pollution. Croydon is breaking new ground in holistic lighting strategies covering safety, security, energy consumption and light pollution. Skyline is a project with public and economic benefit which will be achieved with minimal environmental cost. We are researching powering Skyline using energy generated from household

aste. We have had discussions with crime prevention officers and the community to establish priority areas for lighting improvements. The council's street lighting programme has the objective of eliminating the nas me objective of eministring the legacy of poor quality lighting polluting the night sky by replacing outdated fittings with more energy-

efficient sources that have a downward-only lighting coefficient.
A unique feature of the Skyline Project is that we are seeking the involvement of the Croydon Astronomical Society as a member of the board of trustees controlling the project. PHILIP GOODWIN Director of Planning London Borough of Croydon

Subsidies kill rural jobs

Sir: The European Common Agriculture Policy has had a threefold effect in creating rural unemployment ("The golden harvest is over", 12 August). The subsidies, in being linked to level of production and size of operation, have encouraged increased mechanisation and chemical-based farming - termed "more efficient" because it uses fewer people. The subsidies also led to loss of farms as they became amalgamated into larger ones. In addition, land and therefore labour, was "set aside" in a misjudged attempt to reduce the over-production the subsidies promoted.

The social welfare and economic costs on regional and local, rural and urban, levels have been high. Yet we must not assume this trend is inevitable and expect other businesses and industry to fill a few rural labour gaps. Rather, the direction should be towards less intensive, safer and, more locallymiensive, saier and, more locally-based food production systems, encouraged through positive incentives, advice and education. Fiscal measures such as lowering the cost of labour (income tax and National Insurance) and increased

costs of inputs such as energy and chemicals could add to a package of rural employment and environmental benefit. VICKI HIRD Sustainable Agriculture Food and Environment Alliance London SWI

Sir: The introduction of set-aside did indeed supply a much-needed lifeline for wildlife ("Cereals gain as wildlife loses", 12 August). For birds in particular, set-aside provided winter stubble to feed on and nesting cover in the spring. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds believes that the reduction of the area of set-aside for the 96/97 season to just 5 per cent is a serious

worry because we expect it to cause

the present declines in farmland

birds to continue - the skylark population has plummeted by 58 per cent in the last 25 years. Arable farmers are currently receiving vast amounts of money in subsidies with only 7 per cent being paid to farmers to manage the land for conservation. It is regrettable that during the life of set-aside few steps have been taken to ensure that its environmental benefits are

retained for the long term. It is

crucial that such action is taken now. The Ministry of Agriculture has recently consulted with conservation organisations and farming representatives on this subject and has asked members of an arable working group to develop ideas for an incentive scheme. It will be vital that these ideas are developed by the Government, with the minimum of delay, into a workable scheme that is adequately

funded and will meet conservation objectives on commercial farms. GRAHAM WYNNE Director of Conservation, RSPB Sandy, Bedfordshire

Reform of student loans

Sir: Your leading article of 9 August on university top-up fees said that it would be a terrible mistake to allow universities to start charging fees. There is no question of them needing to be allowed. Universities are autonomous private sector charities. Thankfully, they are not part of the public sector, but are subject to the tyranny which can accompany a contract from a (near) monopoly purchaser, in this case the state.

In the absence of an improved loans scheme, top-up fees are undesirable. So too, however, is ageing laboratory equipment, under-investment in IT or further increase in student/staff ratios. Any fee scheme will have to take account of ability to pay, be it in advance or post-graduation. A fully fledged graduate tax has the attractions of the Venus fly-trap. Where is the example to show that the Treasury can, long term, keep its sticky fingers off funds raised

I believe the universities and the banks should operate a private loan scheme, with the charges levied allowing for low earners, emigrant graduates, career break losses, etc as well as real rates of interest. . Unfortunately, American

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

(Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

experience has shown that it can be more expensive to lend than to give! Thus, the only economic means of recovery is through the Inland Revenue or the Contributions Agency. The new loans company could have a service agreement with either of these to extract repayments from the wage packets of those who had signed up for the loans. In this arrangement the Government is at arm's length and the public sector is not being asked to do anything for which it is not paid. Professor R F BOUCHER Principal and Vice-Chancellor UMIST

Policing the police

Manchester

Sir: John Wadham of Liberty criticised almost everything about the way deaths in police custody are currently examined (letters, 8

August.) He acknowledged that "the Police Complaints Authority has a role in supervision". However he failed to appreciate that our oversight ensures that a civilian Authority member directs the inquiry and guarantees that an impartial and thorough investigation takes place. Authority members supervise more than 40 inquiries into deaths in custody every year. That gives us considerably more experience of such tragedies than most police officers. I see every completed inquiry and I know that police involvement does not taint them, as

Mr Wadham suggested.

Nyet Sir: I recently sought permission to employ an au pair girl from Russia but I have learnt from the immigration and nationality directorate of the Home Office that Russia is not included in the list of countries whose nationals may enter the UK as an pairs, and that there

are no plans to extend the scheme. This surprised me, particularly as nationals of countries such as Bosnia, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia and Turkey may come. Why is Russia excluded? This seems a very short-sighted policy because it is to everyone's advantage that Britain has ties of friendship with Russia. PAMELA PERRIN Baldock, Hertfordshire

It is nonsense to say that only 1

per cent of all complaints lead to charges against officers - criminal

charges yes; disciplinary charges no. Last year 4,684 fully

investigated cases, including deaths

in custody, led to 1,277 formal or

informal disciplinary actions. We have called for disclosure, by

the coroner, of evidence to the

active discussions with the

of preventing such tragedies happening. That is why we participated in the Lambeth

Coroners' Society.

Surgeons Association,

Acting Chairman

London SN 7

PETER MOORHOUSE

Police Complaints Authority

family of the deceased and are in

In addition we are seeking ways

working group which produced the Lessons from Tragedies report and

why we are now working on a study

of deaths in custody with the Police

Tories conjure up the demon Blair

Sir: You are much too kind to the Tory Central Office in your editorial of 13 August. Caricaturing the personalities of your opponents and exploiting their weaknesses is part of the game. But this latest campaign against Tony Blair sets new standards of squalor and irrationalism in recent public life. The demonisation, the attempt to stir up a kind of voodoo atmosphere, might be saved it there was even a trace of humour or caricature. But there isn't. This looks a dead serious, vicious ussault. Not a pretty sight. JONATHAN GREEN

Sir: Jung believed that a group could projects its own shadow – the unacknowledged side of its own experience - on to another person or organisation. As a result it would see and reject in others what it failed to see and accept in itself. By demonising Tony Blair the Conservatives have inadvertently told us more about themselves than they have about the Labour Party. Fr PAT COLLINS

Sir: When John Smith so tragically died John Major spoke passionately about the integrity of the man and the need to remove personal attacks from politics. In view of the latest poster campaign by Conservative Central Office, I wonder how he would feel, and what he would say, if Tony Blair were to suffer in the same way. IS DRUMMOND Leeds

Sir, The Fabians have certainly lived up to their namesake's delaying tactics in waiting till now to recommend for Britain what was done for Japan half a century ago ("Labour disowns Fabian attack on the Queen", 12 August). That doughty right-winger General Douglas MacArthur, as Allied supreme commander in occupied Japan, presided over a dramatic reduction in the staff of the imperial household (more than 7,000 retainers lost their jobs) while the Emperor's daughters ceased to be princesses and the Japanese peerage was abolished under the constitution

One result is that the future of the Chrysanthemum Throne is today a lot more secure than is that of the House of Windsor. PETER MARTIN E-mail: p.martin@netcom.co.uk

Muslim empire

Sir: Muslim expansion into southern Europe (letter, 10 August) took place in a world organised into rival empires; it was a question of occupy or be occupied. Comparing the treatment of Christians and Jews under Muslim control, where they lived as protected "People of the Book", with that of Muslims and Jews in the Christian states, when they were allowed to live there at all, it is clear that expansion was the only safe course open to Muslims.

In contrast, the denial of selfdetermination to the Palestinians since 1918 has taken place in a world that is supposed to be organised into self-determining PISTEWART Oxford

The green, white and orange tiger

Wake up, there's an economic miracle on our doorstep. Ireland is outpacing the world, writes John Lichfield

cene: St Stephen's Green, central Dublin last week. First Taxi Driver to Second Taxi Driver: "Sure, I didn't recognise you, now, in a f...ing

Quoting taxi drivers as a cuide to a nation's economy or politics, or anything else is an ancient and dishonourable newspaper tradition. For once it is justified. The reversal of fortune in the Dublin taxi business (once celchrated for the shabbiness of its cars and the gloominess of its drivers) is startling. A few years ago drivers were giving away their trade plates; now they change hands for up to £75 000. (That is Irish pounds. which are currently worth more than sterling).

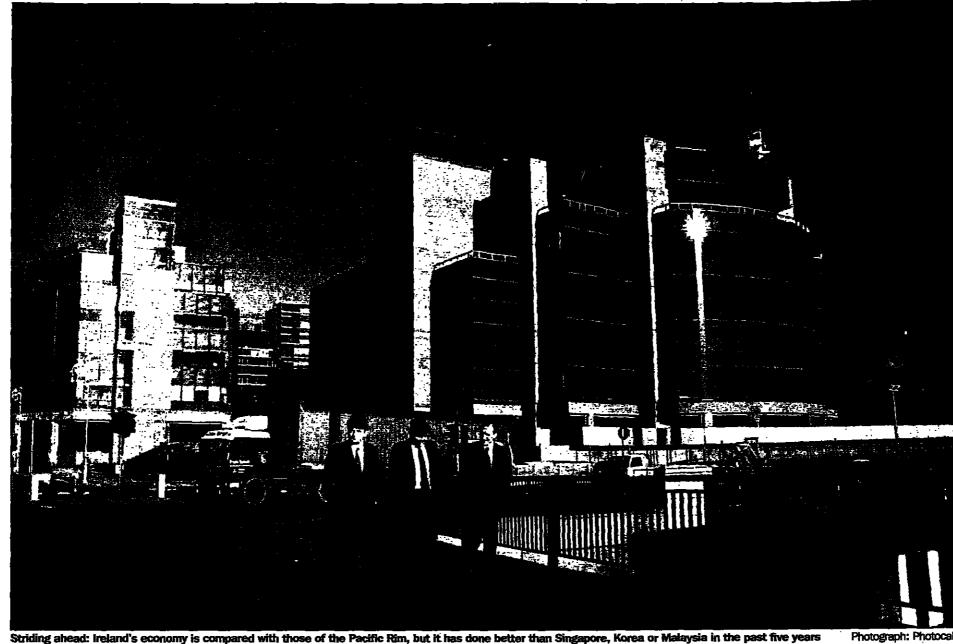
The Republic of Ireland, in case you had missed it, is booming. Ireland's growth rate last year (7.3 per cent) was, for the third year in a row, the highest in the western world. The Irish economy is expected to grow by another 5 or 6 per cent this year. Inflation is the lowest in Europe (2.5 per cent). Nearly one third of all US high-tech investment in Europe goes into the Republic. Ireland has more young people with scientific and engineering degrees than any country, save Japan. Tourist spending in Ireland was 15 per cent up last year; 10 per cent up again this year. There is net emigration into Ireland for the first time since the Potato Famine of the 1840s (apart from a brief spurt in the 1970s). Ireland is not only booming

economically; it has become culturally fashionable. The hill of Killiney to the south of Dublin has so many movie and sports stars in residence that it has been nicknamed Bel Eire by the Dublin Evening Herald. The latest would-be part-time Dubliners are Marlon Brando and Steffi Graf.

What were the off-the-peg images of Ireland 20 years ago; even 10 years ago? The interminable, mournful troubles in the North; church-enforced social paralysis in the South; rain; Val Doonican; mass emigration; revolving-door coalition governments; more rain; a

begging bowl in Brussels. Fast-forward to 1996 and the hopes for peace, now tarnished; in the Eurovision song contest; the runaway success of Riverdance: more success in the Olympics than Britain; a run of good summers; that nice President Mary Robinson.

It is common (especially in Europe was much more impor-Northern Ireland) to denigrate tant. We got out from under



Ireland's success as a sham boom, jacked up by EU subsidies and mercenary foreign companies who are allowed to repatriate most of their profits. Both accusations have a grain of truth but fail to explain the magnitude of what is happening across the Irish Sea.

EU farm and regional stiffsidies give Ireland about £2bu a year - 4 per cent of GNP. The direct EU investments in Irish are: a successful soccer team; about £1bn a year) are a god-hopes for peace, now tarnished; send. But, overall, according to a Nobel Prize for Seamus the former Taoiseach Garret Heaney; the Commitments: the Fitzgerald, EU subsidies are Booker Prize for Roddy Doyle; responsible for only half a per-U2; Bob Geldof; endless wins centage point of Irish annual growth. Terry Baker, a British economist at the Economic and Social Research Institute in Dublin, says: "The EU money is important but the psychological impact of joining

ADVERTISEMENT

THE KEY

OF DAVID

our own right, in a sense for the first time

Ireland is sometimes compared with the Tiger economies of the Pacific Rim; but Ireland (on the Atlantic rim) has done better than Sinzabore or Korea or Malaysia in e past five years. It has combined Asian growth with European rates of inflation. Add an entry ticket to the Single Europeople and you have a perfect invitation to international investment.

It is true that the Irish government gilds the invitation by taking only 10 per cent of the profit of foreign firms. Over £2bn in corporate profits were exported from Ireland last year (mostly to the US). But it is not true - no longer true anyway - to describe the imported jobs as low skilled. Increasingly, the work coming to Ire-

Herbert W. Armstron

of the Church of God

Britain: we became a country in land is high-quality, highly ald says the great secret of the paid, at the cutting edge of advance in information technology or pharmaceuticals.

At worst, this amounts to a kind of static emigration. Young Irish men and women are still working for foreigners, but at least they are remaining in Ireland while they do so. Many are returning, with skills and money, from abroad. At best, Ireland is building an

industrial revolution which partly through deliberate British policy - it never had in the first. Until the 1960s, almost all industrial capacity in the island of Ireland was in the North; now three quarters of it is in the South. There remain serious blots

on the landscape; particularly the rate of unemployment, still one of the highest in Europe at 12.7 per cent. The jobless especially the long-term jobless - are concentrated in urban and inner-suburban ghettoes, especially in Dublin, which have some of the worst social, drug and crime problems in the EU. There are large pockets of rural deprivation, worst in the counties close to the border. Otherwise, the boom is reasonably spread around the country. Galway, a sleepy and moribund, almost forgotten, town 20 years ago, can now barely cope with its tourist and local trade; it claims to be the fastest grow-

ing city in the EU. In a sense, both the social and economic Irish revolutions are youth-led. Garret Fitzger-

country's success is the bountiful supply of well-educated young people, produced by an education system which (partly thanks to contributions by the church) costs less per pupil

than Britain's. "Education is the key to everything," he said in an interview at his home last week. "It is a lesson that you in Britain should learn. Or I should say in much more like us. Your completion rate in secondary education and take-up rate in third-

which bypasses Dublin to the west; continue along the dualcarriageway; turn off onto a country lane; pass two encampments of travellers drying their laundry on the hedgerows. (some things never change); pass through the security gates. You enter-an-industrial park - Fitzgerald, as leader-of-Fine with airport terminal architec Gael, who began the fight-back ture and manicured lawns and ns. You could be in New

To see the new Ireland, turn

off the new M50 motorway

Donal Connell is general manager of the operation of level education are disastrously 3Com, a Californian company,

'Joining Europe was important; we became a country in our own right

low." Almost half of all Irish specialising in systems that youngsters go to college or university, compared to just under 30 per cent in Britain.

Here hurks a great, historical irony. Education is successful in Ireland partly because it has a large, aspirational rural population, used to having to travel and learn and hustle for work. Thanks to repressive British policies in times past (denying Catholic Ireland heavy industry), the Republic does not have a large, inflexible, unen-terprising, anti-education, urban working class. The urban working class that does exist in inner-city Dublin and a few other towns is noticeably exempt from the educational,

and economic, boom.

allow computers to communicate with computers. The company came to Ireland six years ago with a promise to employ

176 people by 1996; it employs Why did 3Com pick Ireland? "A bright, willing, flexible, well-educated labour force is crucial," says Mr Connell. "The reason we can compete with the Far East, with higher unit labour costs, is because we are always pushing out the boundaries of our production methods to make them cheaper and better. To do that you need people with good language skills, who can grasp new concepts, who are not fixed on old ways of doing things."

Few Irish people will admit it, but credit is also due (wait for it) to Irish politicians. Ireland had rapid growth in the 1960s but it was thrown away by the profligate spending of Franna Fall governments in the 1970s, which created severe stagilation (simultaneous recession and inflation). It was Dr

from 1982, but he admits that coalitions - especially Finance Minister, and later European Commissioner, Ray MacSharry - share the credit for putting Ireland's house in order.

An extraordinary consensus

on economic policy has existed in Dublin for 15 years, embracing whatever parties happen to be in coalition, from the centreright to the ex-Stalinist left. There have been spending cuts more savage than anything attempted by Mrs Thatcher or Ronald Reagan; there have been substantial personal tax cuts; there has been the world's only successful wage-restraint policy; there has been a stringent monetary policy, in effect, sub-contracted to the Bundesbank through the European Monetary System. This adds up to a uniquely Irish mixture of right-wing (free market) and left-wing (interventionist) poli-

cies: but it has worked. The boom has produced something newish for Ireland the conspicuous flaunting of wealth. More Mercedes were sold in Ireland in the first six

previous year. Dublin (deprived areas apart) is bumming, and changing. It is also becoming more European, in ways that can be disturbing, if you loved the old Dublin. The traditional culture of dank pubs, soaked in Guinness and wit, is giving way to a café culture of bright lights, rock music and chatter. The old Dublin still exists in parallel, but patronised by brown signs advertising a "literary pub tour". If Leopold Bloom lived at this hour, he would be a bond tradesman at the Dublin international financial services centre. Instead of eating "the inner organs of beasts and fowls", he would spend his lunch hour, with a mobile phone clamped to his ear, eating Acapulco prawns in the Bad Ass Café. Some fear that Ireland is

becoming too European; others that it is becoming too American. And yet tourists - often older and richer tourists than before - are pouring in because of the global fashion for things

David Quinn, 27, founder and artistic director of the Punchbag Theatre on the quayside in Galway city, says he has no fears of Irish loss of identity. There is, if anything, a revival of interest among young people in Irish culture. The fact that Ireland has joined the modern world, he says, has made young people more proud of being Irish, not less.

"When I was growing up there were no modern Irish heroes. Our heroes were all foreigners. Now we have our own heroes ... Seamus Heaney, U2, Michelle Smith. We are the first liberal generation, the first freeborn generation if you like, in the sense that we no longer measure everything by what Britain does and we don't live in fear of what the Catholic Church says We have grown up. We have become a modern nation."

What of the future? Demog raphy, among other things, is on Ireland's side. The birth rate has halved in the past decade. Five or 10 years from now, Ireland could be really booming: it will have a relatively small elderly population; a large well-educated working population; fewer people coming into the workforce and therefore - in theory - dramatically lower

European Monetary Union, which Ireland seems certain to join, should provide more economic impetus, according to a recent study (but could cause competitive problems for Ireland if Britain does not join and sterling devalues). EU subsidies will (and should) decline as poorer members join and Ireland becomes more prosperous. But foreign investors are as si, eager as ever; Ireland is already cherry-picking the best. If present growth trends continue. Ireland will have a higher GNP per head than Britain in 15 or 20 years.

There is no reason why Britain should begrudge Ire-land's success. Our neighbour remains one of our best and biggest markets; a booming Republic could yet be part of a complex, chemical formula for bistorical and generational change that might, in time, solve the Irish question. It is time to dump all the old preconceptions about Ireland. You may not have noticed but we have a green, white and orange month of this year than in any striped tiger living next door.

THE AMAZING FACTS BEHIND

THE 'STONE OF DESTINY... ...and our own Royal Family

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You can make mine a Renault McGann

t is with great pleasure that I welcome back Dr Wordsmith, our irregular expert on the meanings and derivations of words. Dr Wordsmith spent three

years at university studying the meanings and derivations of words, and thus left university completely unemploy-able - or would have done. had it not been for the new fashion for interest in semantics and philology, or at least the current fashion for having columns about words in newspapers. When that fashion passes on. Dr Wordsmith will again be unemployable. Till then we are always guardedly glad to welcome him, to give him a chance to answer your questions about language. All

yours, doc! I have sometimes seen the word "bistro" spelt "histro" and sometimes seen it spelt "bistrot". Is it correct to have the "t" on the end of the word or not? Dr Wordsmith writes: The French spell it with a "t" on the end, but the English have dropped the "t" in their version of the word. The correctness of the spelling depends

on your nationality. In France. for instance, there is a new car called a Renault Mégane. In Ireland, I believe, it is being marketed as a Renault McGann. Same with "bistro" and "bistrot".

both languages, don't they?
Dr Wordsmith writes: No.
In France a "bistrot" is an unpretentious little restaurant with shabby décor and dogeared menus where you can get superb food, whereas in England a "bistro" is a pretentious little restaurant with superb menus and décor where you can get...

But they mean the same in

Yes, I think we get the point. But I have noticed another variation in spelling. Sometimes the word "turbo" is spelt without a ". and sometimes it is spell with a "t", as in "turbot". Is there any difference in meaning? Dr Wordsmith writes: Not

really. "Turbot" with a "t" is a word added to restaurant menus to make them seem impressive, and "turbo" without a "t" is a word added to the backs of cars to make them seem impressive. Is the "t" on the end of



Miles Kington

these words ever pronounced? Dr Wordsmith writes: Not in the case of words like "tarot" and "Merlot" and "Renault", except in ignorance. The "r" on the end of "gigot" is pronounced in France, but not in Scotland. The "t" on the end of "Camelot" is not pronounced in England, but in France it is pronounced on the end of the equivalent word.

What does the equivalent to Camelot mean in French? Dr Wordsmith writes: A load of over-priced, meretricious

rubbish, as it does in England I have noticed that the word "giro" is sometimes spelt "giro' and sometimes spelt "gy70". What is the difference?

Dr Wordsmith writes: They both mean the same thing, ie, things going round and round in a circle, usually money. The original word was "gyro". which was an acronym for "Get Your Revenue Organised", but for some reason this was changed to another acronym, "General Inland Revenue Organisation", or "giro", and

this is the one that has stuck. Where does the actual word acronym come from? I know is means a set of initial letters making a new name, but I don't know the derivation.

Dr Wordsmith writes: Oddly enough, it is itself an acronym. The letters ACRONYM stand for "Adaptable Code for Recalling or Naming Your Message".

Shouldn't that be
ACFRONYM? You've missed

out the word "for" in the initials. Dr Wordsmith writes: Don't get clever with me, fish face. Do you call the United States

of America the USOA? Dr Wordsmith writes: Well, then. Anyway, these acronyms are only a kind of a mnemonic,

Where does the word "mnemonic" come from?
Dr Wordsmith writes: Blimey. Well, oddly enough, it comes from another acronym.
It stands for MNEMONIC -

My New Easy Method of

Nemorising Intricate Codes.

"My" new easy method? Who does "my" refer to?
Dr Wordsmith writes: Well, presumably that refers to the

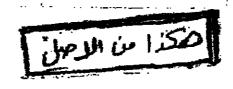
inventor of the new easy method. And who was he? Dr Wordsmith writes: I

haven't the faintest idea. But whoever he was, he could not spell very well, considering that he put an "n" on the front of "memorising".
In Australia, a "barbecue" is

known as a "barble". Does this mean that in Australia a Barbie Doll is a little man wearing a bloodstained apron holding a steak on a fork?

Dr Wordsmith writes: Look, I see the pubs have just opened and I'm dying for a drink. Some other time, perhaps?

Dr Wordsmith will be back soon. Keep those queries rolling in!



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reorge Steiner must have wondered, as he tucked into his morning porridge in Edinburgh yesterday, whether he was dreaming. The papers were busy telling everyone how he had there is an incident the state of the state just given the festival a disdainful dressing-down in his inaugural Edinburgh University Festival lecture: culture and the "Why the festival is too big for its boots," they exclaimed. "Time to bury the cultural relics." topping hoards No. A. C. C. of Landing

Steiner had, it appeared, accused the annual fiests of failing to live up to its exalted aims, suggesting that it was blinkered in its reluctance to embrace the vivid, purposeful aesthetic of modern science. He had even, apparently, urged the festival to quit while it was ahead.

In the long history of media mis-representation this is of course an innocuous and trivial case, but it is worth mentioning that these were not remotely the themes of Steiner's long and interesting speech. They were merely a teasing (and, if anything, constructive) coda in a sustained tribute to the excellence of

Let's count our blessings. Robert Winder celebrates summer arts festivals, near and far

One headline even credited the prolessor with saying that Edinburgh
"has outlived its spirit, aims and
ideals" – a notably unSteinerish
cliché that does not, as it happens, after all. Indeed, this emberance is a big part of what makes any festival popular and successful: the creation of an exhibarating, creative, lots going on atmosphere in the city as a whole. appear in the lecture at all. He did say that the vision of European fellowship (or "communion") which

Still, the serious question discussed in Steiner's lecture - "What are festivals for?" - is a good one. Certainly we are in the middle of a large and sustained festival-boom. The British Council's guide to arts festivals counts 71 events in the calendar year: everything from the sizeable international gatherings at Edinburgh, Aldeburgh, Hay-on-Wye and Cheltenham to the more modest get-togethers in Abergavenny, Richmond-upon-Thames and Bracknell. Culture vultures with time on their hands can gear up for Edinburgh by checking out the scene in Harrogate explosive satire-cum-farce. But even and King's Lynn, and then while away

land, Wells, Lancaster, Guildford,

Only a spoilsport could scorn cultural circuses

Canterbury and Hastings.

And this is just in Britain; the rest of Europe is just as busy. You can jet off on lovely musical holidays in

Festivals cannot be bourgeois museums. They must be places to experiment

Bayreuth or Salzburg, with time to climb an Alp before the string quartets; or attend stirring operatic weekends in Verona and heady jazz nights in Nice. One might have thought that the escalation of media consumption in recent decades -

Edinburgh's engagement with the cosmopolitan artistic life of Europe. One headling even credited the prowould have turned us all into stay-at-homes, diminishing the appetite for a personal brush with the real ting Hill Gate. Edinburgh appears thing. The opposite seems to be true. These days there are simply more to marry these two elements as well as anywhere - better by far than coat-tails the public wishes to touch. Salzburg, for instance, where only It is hard to see a danger to civillottery winners can afford tickets,

isation in any of this. For one thing, and bow ties seem to be compulsory it goes back a long way: Aeschylu even in the ice-cream kiosks. There is one risk, however, which Steiner forcefully underlined. Festi-Sophocles and Euripides were all products of the great drama competitions of ancient Greece. We vals cannot merely be bourgeois museums: they need to be forums moderns no longer believe that art for promoting new or difficult work, is competitive, though gold medals for art, architecture, music and literature were included in the places to experiment - arts labora-tories, as it were. One of the biggest Olympic Games until 1948. But the blights on English culture was the association forged by the Bloomsidea of culture as sport (rather than bury group between the high arts as education, or morality, or duty) is attractive. These things are supand country house living. The baleposed to be enjoyable; they are above all social occasions. There is ful idea that a taste for fine art is pretty much the same as a taste for fine wine and elegant furniture (ic. a touch of despotism about arts fesa luxury) has east a long shadow tivals. Tyrants love them - it shows

heritage-industry route, serving up inoffensive entertainments in the gap between a cream tea and dinner in the Duke's library, then it will not be a heartening trend. But this does not seem to be hap-

pening, Indeed, the touching aspect of most festivals is that they began as private obsessions, and continue to feel driven by innocent enthusiasm. A month ago, for instance, in Bantry, Co Cork, a new one was created. A dairy-farming music lover persuaded the Vanbrugh Quartet to perform in one of his cowsheds for a week. Seamus Heaney dropped in and read some poems. The audience went away dazed and happy. Next year, who knows, they may have to use the hayloft as well, and before we know it they will be performing in a muddy marquee out by the silage. It will be many years before the three tenors descend on Bantry and distinguished professors are mistakenly supposed to be shaking their heads and saying that it is not which continues to dim the view. If what it used to be.

festival-mad Britain goes down this

The Devil still has the best tune

inspired the festival in its early, post-war days "has not been real-ised"; but this was a criticism of west-

ern Europe's continuing love-affair

with sectarian feuding, hardly a

comment on a Scottish arts carnival.

have some sympathy even for the

distorted version of Steiner's views.

The Edinburgh festival sometimes

seems too wacky by half. You can't

turn a corner near the Grass Mar-

ket these days without bumping

into someone dressed as a tomato,

handing you a playbill for tonight's

In fact, it would be possible to

These days we fear Old Nick more than God. That's why demon Blair packs a punch, says Sara Maitland

t is a curious fact that as much around our subliminal when God had a stronger hold on public consciousness than He does inclined to be so worried about the Devil. The Bishop of Oxford says that the Conservative Party's poster campaign showing Tony Blair with devilishly shit red eyes is dangerous. The bishop may only have meant to say that it was dangerous to democracy for the or with the Devil sitting affecbody politic to demonise the tionately on his shoulder and legitimate opposition; or to whispering inspiration into his introduce that level of personal abuse into electioneering, but he went further; it was dangerous because it "draws on satanic imagery".

Satanic imagery is a bit more complicated, actually, than a pair of red eyes behind a mask that might be the Lone Ranger's, and which are drawn more from B-grade horror movies than any European Christian tradition. But if the Conservative publicity machine is really trying to draw parallels between Blair and the original

Devil it should be careful. By the end of the Middle Ages, there were three things that everyone knew about the Devil (apart from the fact that he was Bad). The first, which is obviously implied in the advert, is that he was the consummate liar and deceiver. But the others were that the Devil was enormously powerful and enormously sexy. Blair certainly wants to be the former, and probably wants to be thought the latter: it is surprising that the Tory party should so readily hand him such an accolade. If the image is going to

expectations of Satan as around anything specific about the Labour Party, old or new. We today, people were less can learn about what these might be by looking at the history of Christian iconography.

Demonising the opposition has long been a part of the political job. During the Reforma-tion, pro-Catholic propaganda pictures of Lather frequently showed him either as the Devil ear. The reformers responded with vicious caricatures of the dealing with him. Quite simply,

Because people knew all this about him, they were far less worried by evil than we seem to be. If you believed in Satan you also believed in a God who had overcome Satan - and there

We are obsessed by evil without any counterbalancing sense of good triumphing

ting at a table with a revoltingly obese Pope; the Bull's horns and tail were far more explicitly demonic than the red eyes and sinister mask that the Tories have pained on Mr Blair.

The Devil was strong and subtle. He started out as a mere snake but quickly took on all the powers of the dragon, breathing fire and wreaking havoc. As well as having immense physical strength, he also apparently had great mental powers as well. He could dispute with the greatest theologian. He was the master of disguise - dressing up as someone else being the very core of "lying", and one of the reasons why cross-dressing was more or less proof of heresy, as Joan of

Arc discovered. The Devil was sexy: he estab-

personified Papal Bull, who is shown in 16th-century prints sit-so you had only to name Christ or make the sign of the cross and the Devil would be forced to flee. (A good test, this. Make the sign of the cross when you next see Tony Blair on the TV, and if he explodes in a puff of vile smoke you should vote Tory next time. If he does not, you can safely follow your normal method of

seducing them. The very word

"glamour" derives from the

spell that, under his auspices,

witches performed: to "cast a

glamour" was their crime. The

the alluring but delusive beauty that the witches gained from

their association with the Devil.

political discernment.) The important thing in the Middle Ages was to keep the Devil in proportion. Hell was a real threat, and should not be ignored, but to let the Devil terrify you was equally reprehensible. In Christ there was nothing to fear - the Devil could be laughed at Teresa of Avila recalls that when her visions began, she consulted a confessor about how she would know whether they were from God or Satan. He instructed her to

lished his bond with witches by greet their onset with a lewd gesture. If they were divine, her humility (in not assuming the visions were sent by God) would be pleasing to the Lord, and if they were from the Devil he would flee because the Devil, word eventually extended to being unspeakably proud, cannot bear to be laughed at. In the light of the victory of

Christ, the argument went, the Devil should be mocked. The little red devils with horns, goats' feet and tails, familiar from product of this attitude. When were therefore simple ways of the Devil appeared in art there was often an element of farce. In the Mary of Nimmegen mystery play, for example, Satan confesses that all the devils are slightly deformed: "It is not in our power, we devils from hell/To incarnate ourselves... without some little defect here or there./Be it in the head or the hands or the feet." Look at Hieronymus Bosch images to see the devil portrayed in innumerable playful forms.

What is frightening now is that we seem obsessed by evil without any counterbalancing sense of a triumph of good; or even any decent myth resources. We say we don't believe in the Devil, but popular culture is full of images that depend on his power: horror movies, invasive aliens, invisible diseases, ritual abuse, the overwhelming "evil" of a Hamilton or a West - a devil too powerful for us to ward off with simple charms, too amorphous for us to visualise, and too scary for us either to admit we

are scared of or to laugh at. What is worrying is that the creators of this new poster are aware enough of these lurking Either to ignore it altogether, or fears to try to exploit them. It to join in, carries very real risks.



easier to mock the Devil Bridgeman Art Library

is precisely to the point that there should be no actual, measurable or examinable message in these advertisements: they

just say, "be frightened". It must be quite hard for the other political parties to respond to this particular campaign.

If Labour can learn anything from history, its best bet would probably be to laugh at it. Might I recommend a poster showing Blair as a rather cherubic angel with non-acrodynamic winglets still grinning sweetly, floating in the air with a slogan under his feet, "Labour rises above the slings and arrows of Tory abuse"

ELEGANT. BEAUTIFUL. PROUD. SOON SHE COULD BE DEAD FROM HUNGER.

Sophina Wamboi is typical of thousands of elderly people living in atrocious conditions overseas right now. Living in a tiny, insentary shack, she is strugging to survive on a handful of rice a day. Without help soon, she could die.

Yet by sponsoring an elderly person such as Sophina for just \$10 a month, you could provide them with life-saving supplies of food, medicines and clothing and help give them back the dignity they deserve.

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The Player. The film-withintist Beaumarchais (who com-Yes, I'm interested in helping an elderly person overseas. Please the-film was to have ended posed the libretto for Mozart's Marriage of Figaro), wrote that with Julia Roberts executed in Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ma tragedy must henceforward the gas chamber, but comfocus on people of "ordinary mercial pressures forced the substitution of her rescue by degree" rather than kings. Many subsequent serious dramas about "ordinary" peothat unlikely deus ex machina, Bruce Willis. Perhaps our Postcode ple can arguably be called "tragedies" (Ibsen's Hedda Gabler, Pinter's The Caretaker. modern conscionsness is so overwhelmed by the real Recurn to human tragedies relayed by Helen Higgs, Adopt a Grann Help the Agod, the media that it can no longer Synge's Riders to the Sea). tolerate downbeat closure in Arthur Miller thinks that true tragedy lies in the kinds of its recreational fictions. questions a writer asks rather than in a specific form, and has

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ragedy was supposedly invented by the Greek playwright Thespis, but the word literally means "goat song", and tragedy has been derived from animal sacrifice, funeral lament, hero cult, ancestor worship, initiation rites, and fertility dances

respectively. Yet tragedies were originally performed at Athenian festivals of the wine-god Dionysus, and their forebear is most likely to have been Dionysus's danced hymn, the "dithyramb". For Greek tragedy required chorus and actors to sing: indeed, Monteverdi and his colleagues in the Italian renaissance believed it to have been entirely musical, and in imitating it accidentally invented

opera.
The earliest surviving tragedy is Aeschylus's Persians (472 BC), though more people are familiar with his Oresteia. The second great tragedian was Sophocles, who in plays such as Oedipus Tyrannus crested what we understand as the individual "tragic hero". Next came Enripides, with his shocking female leads, such as Medea. All three were imitated by the Romans, but the only surviving Latin tragedies are those of Seneca (first century AD). Senecan tragedy is imbued with Stoic philosophy's conflict between passion and reason, obsessed with

than its Greek precursors. It than its Greek precursors. It fundamentally influenced renaissance neoclassical tragedy, which emulated its five-act structure, figured rhetoric and fascination with

revenge. Everyone's popular conception of tragedy derives ultimately from Aristotle's Poetics. Plato had banned tragedy from his ideal Republic on the ground that it encouraged transvestism and unmanly weeping, his pupil Aristotle responded by maintaining that it elicited the emotions of pity and fear in a constructive process involving catharsis.

Tragedy is conventionally set in the past. The Italians and French embraced myth, which Sartre called "serious theatre's true battleground". But English tragedians always preferred (allegedly) authentic historical figures: Ben Jonson thought that the "truth of argument" of his Sejanus enhanced its emotional impact. Death is central to tragedy: thus the play-within-a-play in A Mid-summer-Night's Dream is "tragicall ... for Piramus therein

doth kill himselfe". Superior tragedies contemplate the conflict between autonomous human action and forces beyond human control, whether conceived as the decrees of the Delphic oracle. or as Gloucester's famous



Tragedy VISITING LECTURER: Edith Hall

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gods in King Lear, killing humans as wanton boys kill flies for their sport. George Steiner argued in The Death of Tragedy that the form is defunct precisely because the dominant thought systems of the 20th-century West, Marx-ism and Christianity, cannot accommodate the old Hellenic notions of blind fate or unjust gods.

Chaucer defined a tragedy as a story "of hym that stood in greet prosperitee/And is yfallen out of heigh degree/ Into myserie, and endeth wrecchedly": the heroes in tragedy, classically conceived, must be of "heigh degree".

There was long a genre dis-tinction between "aristocratic" tragic heroes and comedy's plebeian characters. Tragedy proper thus ended with the ancien régime in 1789: the French revolutionary drama-

himself a claim to the title of "20th-century tragedian'. In his Death of a Salesman, the lowly Willy Loman, brought incluctably into conflict with the expectations of a restrictive society, approaches the heroic stature of the Sophoclean Oedipus. Even Chaucer's view that

the tragic hero is "yfallen" and "endeth wreechedly" is traceable to Aristotle: for him the best tragic plot featured a successful individual making a mistake (hamartia, eg marry-ing your mother), leading to a reversal of fortune. This need for a "wretched ending" explains why tragedy is dead in today's cinemas, our equivalent of the Athenian theatre of

Dionysus. Unhappy endings are uncommercial, as Robert Alt-man so acerbically observed in his satire on the film industry,

Sir Anthony Parsons

Anthony Parsons was one of the most invigorating characters in

British public life. When I met him first, in the late 1950s, he was a junior at-tache in the British Embassy at Ankara, and I admired his familiarity with the Turkish political scene as much as I enjoyed his company and that of his wife. Sheila. In subsequent years, when he was a rising diplomat, our paths crossed frequently in various Arab countries and I used to think that he would have been a great success in my own profession of journalism. With his quick intelligence, his com-mand of Arabic, Turkish and Persian, and his individualistic approach to life, I thought him much more suitable material for a foreign correspondent than for a diplomat. Indeed, I thought in those days that it was not so much a question of whether he would get to the top in the Foreign Office as whether he would last the course at all.

Not for lack of ability, you understand. Soon after winning a Military Cross as an artillery officer during the Second World War, he was given the opportu-nity to read Oriental Languages at Oxford as an apprenticeship to a career in the diplomatic ser-vice and emerged, from Balliol, with First Class honours. But the question mark would have been over his willingness to stay in line when he found himself required to accept and to implement policies whose wisdom he doubted; and there were indeed to be occasions during his 40odd years as a public servant when his loyalty was severely tested. The Suez crisis in 1956 was one, and for Anthony Parsons there was another near thing in 1967 when his masters in Whitehall dithered over the question of whether or not to abandon Britain's imperial role in the Persian Gulf. That he survived these and

other moments of less acute tension was due to a personality which combined a number of disparate, even contradictory, characteristics but which had at its core an unshakeable integrity. He would have balked at that phrase, for of all things he hated any suggestion of pomposity, and the assurance with which he pursued his public career was tempered always with informality and a sense of humour which could make fun of his own necessary posturing, for instance as Britain's representative at the United Nations. And when he misjudged events, as he frankly admitted he had done in Iran during the months which led up to the overthrow of the Shah in 1979, he was the first to say so, omitting to mention that everyone else had made the same mistake - except, he would add with a

It was above all that sense of of British diplomacy as demon-



Parsons, centre, voting at the United Nations Security Council with his colleagues Oleg Tryanovsky (Soviet Union, left) and Charles Lichenstein (United States), 1982

humour, masking as it did as grasp of affairs which was very seldom at fault, which carried him to the top; that and an ability to win the trust even of those who disagreed with him. With Arabs, among whom he spent the greater part of his professional life, this combination of frankness and an always imminent sense of humour brought instant success. In Egypt, in Sudan, in Bahrain and the smaller Gulf sheikhdoms, there were many occasions when angry di-atribes against the sins of British imperialism ended in gusts of laughter as each side acknowl-

edged its own pretensions. Nor was it only Arabs whom Anthony Parsons was able to disarm in this way. His opposite number at the UN during the presidency of Ronald Reagan was Jeanne Kirkpatrick, an ideologue of the far right whose outlook could scarcely have been further removed from his own; but she was seduced (if so implacable an opponent) by the Parsons technique of forthright but always genial argument. The way he tackled what looked at first like an impossible task in the early days of the crisis over Argentina's invasion of the Falklands Islands drew from Kirkpatrick a reluctant tribute to the enduring skills read English Literature at uni-

strated by Sir Anthony at this a stimulating tutor. As it was, he crowning moment of his career. It was indeed an outstanding success. In the face of hesitan-

cy from the Americans and downright hostility from some of the other members of the Security Council, Parsons managed to muster the 10 essential votes for a mandatory resolution condemning the Argentine action and so opening the way for Margaret Thatcher's govern-ment to embark on its ultimately successful counter-action. No doubt it was this, among other things, that persuaded Thatcher, when Parsons retired from the Foreign Office not long afterwards, to enlist him as her personal adviser on foreign affairs. He accepted the appointment, after some hesitation and on a part-time basis, anxious not to find himself at odds with his diplomatic colleagues. All was well, and the other members of the Prime Minister's staff marvelled at the way she accepted such a word can be applied to from Parsons interruption and even criticism which, coming from anyone else, would have been brusquely overruled.

After that, at the age of 62 and with time at last to indulge his fancies, his inclination leaned towards the academic outs of successive foreign affairs life. He often said that given the crises. In this way he developed choice he would have liked to versity, and he would have made acteristic that he was always as Dalyell, Anthony Parsons and Anataly Dobtynin, the long-

had acquired in the spare moments of an active career a familiarity with the works of everyone from Beowulf to P.G. Wodehouse, with Conrad as a particular and suggestive favourite. It was (or so I sensed) the romantic in him that embraced Conrad, as well as the conviction, grounded in experience, success is there to be grasped but is only a hair'sbreadth away from failure; and that the right approach to life involves the readiness if necessary to accept failure, but to use it as a milestone on the way to

However, it was his background in the language and culture of the Arab world that claimed his attention when he was invited to become a Research Fellow and presently a Lecturer in the Centre for Arab Gulf Studies at Exeter University, for which he was uniquely qualified both by experience and by academic knowledge. At the same time he found himself much in demand as a speaker one who could explain clearly and with authority to radio and television audiences the ins and

presently what was almost a sec-

ond career - and it was char-

ready to address audiences in schools and the equivalent of the local mothers' union as to take part in seminars at St Antony's in Oxford.

Anthony Parsons would have described his life as a happy one and so it was; and yet fate struck him two fearful blows when first one and then the other of his two sons died without warning. These were wounds from which he never recovered, even though he had the solace of an exceptionally happy marriage and two daughters with whom he enjoyed a very close and affectionate relationship.

Apart from this, if he had one enduring regret it was that as an Englishman and a diplomat with long experience in the field of international affairs, he had not been able to correct the injustices to which, in part through the mistakes of British governments, the Palestinian people had been subjected and are still being subjected today. you comfort for your view. This was something he felt deeply and which was close to his heart throughout his long inat meetings of all kinds and as volvement with the politics of the Middle East.

When he was United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the United Nations between

his wife Sheila opened their home and gave of their time to the regular rotating visiting group of Members of Parliament who went annually to New York in the autumn. One felt, genuinely, that they welcomed elected representatives, warts and all, and did not regard us, as sometimes happens in the Foreign Office, as a nuisance and "visiting firemen".

Parsons adored argument and was engagingly open to opinions certainly other than his government's, and, I believe, his own. It was perhaps typical of him, that when in a round-table briefing I vehemently dissented from Mrs Thatcher's anti-Russian, pro-Mujahedin line on Afghanistan, he replied in kind, and at the end of the meeting asked me to wait a moment. "As you are seriously interested, I will arrange for you to go and see my Russian colleague, Oleg Tryanovsky, who will give

As good as his word he arranged that the following day I should turn up at the fortress headquarters of the Russian delegation in New York. Conducted to Mr Tryanovsky's study, I opened with the remark that it was kind of him to give me time. The veteran Russian

Photograph: Popperfoto/UPI standing Soviet ambassador to Washington, said, "We wouldn't have seen you normally. But

since Anthony Parsons suggested that we should and we have such a high regard for Anthony Parsons, we decided that we would." To impress Tryanovksy, Dobrynin and in the same year Margaret Thatcher was quite some achievement for a diplomat. It was not only the Russians

who were impressed, so were

most of his UN colleagues; and those who heard his frequent contributions in the last 15 years to the BBC radio programme The World Tonight will have no difficulty in understanding why. Parsons was extremely eloquent and always had something worth saying. Even those of us who were appalled by Mrs Thatcher's attitude to the 1982 Falldands crisis recognise that it was Parsons and Sir Nicholas Henderson in Washington who played a crucial role in rallying Americans to the British cause and neutralising many potentially hos-Parsons was a tremendously energetic operator.

In later years, a possible mea 1979 and 1982, writes Tam diplomat, accompanied by compelling and absorbing experience of his diplomatic life, 12 August 1996.

ending up when he left Tehran towards the end of January 1979. a few days after the Shah and his family had fled into exile.

"Could I," he would ask, "as British ambassador have been more perceptive in the years immediately before the revolution broke out?

"Should I have anticipated that the forces of opposition to the Shah - the religious classes, the bazaar, the students would combine to destroy him, although each of these groups was hostile to the regime for a different reason? Could I," Parsons would ask his friends, "have known in advance that the combination of these civilian, unarmed, elements would prove too strong for a regime whose power was based on united, well-armed, wellequipped and loyal armed forces backed by what appeared to be a formidable security

apparatus - the dreaded Savak?
"Had I been able to see so deep into the heart of Iranian society," he would sigh, "would I have advised my government, as well as the British private and public sectors to adopt different policies - different in all fields including our political and strategic relationship with the Shah, our commercial and financial links with Iran oil, the sale of military equipment and much else?

"If we had adopted different policies across the broad spectrum of our dealings with Iran, would this," he murmured, "have lessened the damage to British interests when the collapse finally came?"

Historians in the 21st century and later, when they come to study our century, and its most momentous events, cannot possibly ignore the book The Pride and the Fall in which Parsons addresses so perceptively these questions.

He was a man of enormous insight, a most impressive representative of the Foreign

Anthony Derrick Parsons, diplomat: born 9 September 1922; MC 1945; staff, HM Embassies, Ankara 1955-59, Amman 1959-60, Cairo 1960-61, Khartoum 1964-65; Political Agent, Bahrain 1965-69; LVO 1965; CMG 1969, KCMG 1975, GCMG 1982; Counsellor, UK Mission to UN 1969-71; Under-Secretary, FCO 1971-74; Ambassador to Iran 1974-79; UK Permanent Representative to UN 1979-82; Special Adviser to the Prime Minister on foreign affairs 1982-83; Research Fellow, Exeter University 1984-96, Pride and the Fall 1984, They Say the Lion 1986, From Cold War to Hot Peace: UN interculpa had a pre-eminent place ventions 1947-1994 1995; marin his mind. It concerned what ried 1948 Sheila Baird (two he called without doubt the most daughters, and two sons deceased); died Ashburton. Devon

Imam Muhammad al-Badr

Muhammad al-Badr bin Ahmad Hamid al-Din was the last imam and king of the Mutawakkilite Kingdom of Yemen.

A sayyid and thus a direct descendant of the Prophet Mu-hammad through his daughter Fatima, al-Badr was also a scion of Imam al-Hadi Yahya bin al-Husayn, who established a Zaydi Shia state in Sadah in northern Yemen in the last decade of the ninth century. He was thus the last of a succession of more than 70 imams who ruled in the Yemen until 1962. His great-grandfather al-Mansur Muhammad was Imam and his grandfather was al-Mutawakkil Yahya, who became Imam in 1904. Yahya and then his son Imam Ahmad (al-Badr's father) succeeded in maintaining the independence of the Yemen despite the British occupation of Aden and the whole of, what was then, South Yemen.

Muhammad al-Badr was born in 1929 in the town of Hajjah in north-west Yemen, where his father Sayf al-Islam Ahmad was governor on behalf of Imam Yahya. His mother was Sharifa Safiyya bint Muhammad from the sayyid family of al-Issi of Shahara. In Hajjah he reccived a traditional Yemeni education in the Koran, Islamic religion, Arabic grammar and

In 1944 he moved to Taizz in the south of the country, where his father had already been the lmam's deputy for several years. to continue his education. Soon after the cruel assassination of Imam Yahya in February 1948 plotted by Sayyid Abdullah al-

Wazir, al-Badr arrived in Sanaa, perpetrators of the rebellion.

Sayf al-Islam al-Badr (as Muhammad now became), not yet 20, was clearly able to patch up speedily any misunder-standings with his father, for in late 1949 he was appointed his deputy over Hodeida, the im-

the capital, but apparently only gave tacit support to the new regime. Meanwhile Sayf al-Islam Ahmad had managed to get away from Taizz and made for Hajjah, where he gathered the tribes around him, proclaimed himself Imam with the title of al-Nasir and within a month of the assassination bad easily regained control of Sanaa and executed the principal

Interior

Al-Badr played a prominent role in quelling the revolt against Imam Ahmad in 1955 led by Ahmad's brother Sayf al-Islam Abdullah and afterwards was declared Crown Prince. During the remaining period of Imam Ahmad's rule he held the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs and from 1958 was also the lmam's deputy over Sanna. In 1959 he was put in complete charge of the Yemen for a few months during Imam Ahmad's absence in Italy for medical treatment. An assassination attempt on the life of Imam Ahmad in March 1961 left the

took over effective control fo the government.
On 19 September 1962 Ahmad died in his sleep, al-Badr

was proclaimed Imam and King and took the title of al-Mansur, but a week later rebels shelled his residence, Dar al Bashair, in the Bir al-Azab district of Sanaa and set up a republic.

Al-Badr had, when Crown

Prince, like most young Arab leaders of his generation, been a great admirer of the Egyptian President Jamal Abd al-Nasir and had even arranged during his father's absence in Italy for Egyptian experts to come and help modernise the Yemen in all



portant port on the Red Sea. He latter gravely crippled and in fields, including the military. His was also made Minister of the October Sayf al-Islam al-Badr father moreover had incorporated Yemen into the United Arab Republic of Egypt and Syria, which then became the United Arab States. It is thus ironic that the Yemen revolution of 26 September 1962 was largely instigated and planned by Egyptians and that without a massive Egyptian presence in the Yemen for five years afterwards the Yemen Arab Repub-

lic could never have survived.

Although the revolution had announced to the world that al-Badr had died beneath the rubble of his palace he had in fact managed to escape unhurt and had set out to the north. As he proceeded on his journey the tribes rallied round him pledg-ing him their unconditional allegiance as Amir al-Mumineen ("Prince of the Faithful"). These tribes were zealous Zaydi Shia for whom unstinted loyalty to an imam from the Ahl a)-Bayt (the descendants of the Prophet) was a fundamental obligation of their religion. A few days later he held a press conference over the border in south-west Saudi Arabia. His uncle Sayf al-Islam al-Hasan, who had been abroad and had been proclaimed Imam at the news of al-Badr's alleged demise, immediately gave allegiance to him together with all the princes of the Hamid al-Din family. Soon the entire tribal confederation of Bakil along with most of Hashid who occupied the central and northern highlands of the Yemen and who had been Zaydis for centuries joined

enthusiastically the cause of the Imam and the princes to fight the revolutionary regime. During the bloody civil war which continued for eight years al-Badr, like his cousins, played a vital role. He lived alongside his men the life of a warrior, sharing with them every deprivation and hardship. He set up his headquarters in various places in the scenically spectacular mountainous north-west Yemen, on Jebal Qara, for instance, in the region of Hajur al-Sham and at al-Muhabisha high up above the Tihama plain. These HQs situated in caves fitted out with every basic facility deep in the mountainside were nevertheless constantly under the threat of Egyptian bombardment from the air. In 1967 al-Badr left his HQ at

Mabyan near Hajjah for Taif in Saudi Arabia, where he stayed until the end of the war. In 1970, despite the fact that territorially, most of the Yemen remained under the control of al-Badr and the Hamid al-Din family, Saudi Arabia, which had been the principal oppo-nent of the Sanaa regime, recognised the Yemen Arab Republic and other nations like the United Kingdom swiftly

Stunned by Saudi Arabia's regime which had been negotiated without any consultation with him whatsoever, al-Badr refused to stay any longer in Saudi Arabia and demanded that he be permitted to leave the kingdom immediately. He went to England, where he lived qui-



The young al-Badr, left, with his father, Imam Ahmad

etly in a modest house in Kent, ina and to call on relatives and friends in that part of the world. He died last week in London.

Al-Badr was a man of great courtesy, kindness and personrecognition of the republican al charm. He loved dearly the Yemeni people and was essentially a man of peace. When I asked him a few years after he had plans to return to the Yemen as Imam he replied without hesitation that he ters); died London 6 August would do so only at the invita-

tion of the whole Yemeni only going abroad to visit the nation. He said he would nevholy cities of Mecca and Meder allow a terrible civil war to er allow a terrible civil war to rage once again in his beloved

A. R. D. R. Eagle

Muhammad al-Badr bin Ahmad Hamid al-din: born Hajjah, Yemen 25 February 1929; succeeded 1962 as Irnam al-Mansur Muhammad al-Badı, King of arrived in Britain whether he the Mutawakklite Kingdom of the Yemen, deposed 1962; three times married (two sons, two daugh-

BIRTHS

COLLOSY: On 9 August 1996, to Maria (née Debono) and Martin, a son, Nathan John.

DEATHS

RANDALL: The Rev David William, aged 49 years. Peacefully in the presence of his partner, Tristan, at the London Lighthouse, on Tiesday 13 August 1996. Funeral service, Holy Innocents Church, Paddenswick Road, Hammersmith, London W12, on Friday, 23 August 2, 20on. Followed

Births, Marriages & Deaths

by private cremation. No flowers by

For Gazette BIRTES, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, please telephone 9171-253 3911. Charges are £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Marriages Mr M. C. J. Gibson and Miss L Kenrick

The marriage took place on Friday 9 August, at Tobermory, Mull, be-tween Mathew Gibson and Iona Kenrick, both of Camberwell,

David Crosby, singer, 55; Mrs Jennifer d'Abo, chairman, Moyses Stevens Investments, 51; Mr Fred Davis, snooker player, 83; Vice-Admiral John Dunt, Chief of De-fence Staff (Systems), 52; Mr Buddy Greco, jazz planist and singer, 70: Dr Keith Hampson MR, 53; Mr David Hopkinson, former chairman, Court judge, 58; Sir Robin McLaren, former ambassador to China, 62: Mr Steve Martin, actor and comedian, 51; Lord Mishcon, solicitor, 81; Dr

Oliver Neville, consultant to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, 67; Mr Frederic Raphael, novelist, 65; Mr Tony Scannell, actor, 51: Sir Ronald Stewart, former chairman, London London.

David Hopkinson, former chairman,
Harrisons and Crossfield, 70, The
Rev Dom Anthony Philip Lebb, former Head Master, Downside School,
Miss Surah Brightman, soprano. 35;
Mr Ronald Campbell MP, 53; Mr

David Hopkinson, former chairman,
Harrisons and Crossfield, 70, The
Rev Dom Anthony Philip Lebb, former Head Master, Downside School,
64; Professor Sir Andrew Kay, surman, Cambridge Chemical Co, 69;
Mr Sydney Wooderson, athlete, 82.

William Harrisworth, first Viscount

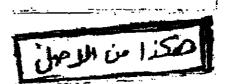
Anniversaries

Births: Dr Florence Estienne Méric Casaubon, classical scholar, 1599; Samuel Sebastian Wesley, composer, 1810; Sir Walter Besant, novelist and philanthropist, 1836; John Galsworthy, novelist and playwright, 1867. Deaths: Augustus Montague Toplady, hymn-writer and author of "Rock of Ages", 1778; Admiral David (James) Glasgow Farragut, uval officer, 1870; Alfred Charles

Northcliffe, newspaper proprietor, 1922; William Randolph Hearst, newspaper proprietor, 1951; Bertolt Brecht, witter, 1956; Leonard Sidney Woolf, publisher, 1969; Iules Ro-mains (Louis Farigoule), novelist, playwright and poet, 1972; John Boynton Priestley, novelist and play-wight, 1984. On this day: the French repulsed William of Orange at the Battle of Mons, 1678; Japan surrendered to the Allies unconditionally, 1945; following rioting, British troops were moved to Northern Ireland to

restore order, 1969; after peace talks in Cyprus broke down, Thrkish troops launched an attack on Nicosia, 1974. Today is the Feast Day of St Athanasia of Aegina, St Eusebus of Rome, St Fachanan, St Marcellus of Apamea and St Maximilian Kolhe.

Changing of the Guard



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Government reveals £165m Energy stake unsold

MICHAEL HARRISON

The final chapter in the ill-fated flotation of the nuclear power generator British Energy closed vesterday when the Government disclosed that it has been left sitting on an unsold 12.3 per

cent stake worth £165m. The stake represents 81m of the 90m shares held back to allow its financial advisers BZW to stabilise the price of British Energy shares in the first month after the sell-off.

Because of its failure to find

tion has only raised £1.24bn for the Government compared with an initial estimate of up to jected into the company, the proceeds are less than £2bn and some £800m short of the best estimates given by BZW when it

was preparing the flotation. The Treasury has been forced to hold on to residual stakes in past privatisations but the size of the British Energy rump left in the hands of the taxpayer is un-

The Treasury will now have to retain the shareholding until market conditions improve or sentiment turns sharply in favour £1.97bn. Together with debt in- of British Energy, which owns and operates the country's eight most modern nuclear reactors. But this could take years.

In the case of the British Petroleum sell-off in 1987 which became a casualty of the world stock market crash, the Government was left with a holding of 100 million shares which was finally sold only this year, raising

erschulzitä

The Government has used over-allotment of shares - otherwise known as a "preenshoe" - to help its banking advisers sta-bilise the price in the aftermarket on five previous occasions. These were the second and third offerings of BT shares, the sale of its remaining stakes in the two electricity generators National Power and PowerGen, and

Railtrack. But in each case, it was left with only a very small rump of shares to be fed subsequently

Energy was dogged through-out, culminating in the closure of two of its eight reactors to check cracks in pipe welds just as subscriptions for the public offer closed.

Although private investors susbscribed for three times the spokesman for the Government shares on offer, institutional investors went cold on the issue and the fully-paid shares were priced at 203p - towards the bot-tom end of the 180p-280p range indicated by the Government and its advisers. The partly paid

plunged to a discount of more than 10 per cent on the first day of dealing last month.

The shares have staged a modest recovery since but they still closed 3.25p below their offer price last night at 101.75p. A said: "The fact that the greenshoe was never used has not come as a surprise to anyone because of the trading performance of the shares."

The one consolation for taxpayers is that they will be eligi-

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The marketing of British shares were priced at 105p but ble for dividend payments on the unsold shares.

> due before the second instalment falls due, the yield on the partly paid shares is over 20 per cent. The spokesman also maintained that it was quite usual on the Continent for a proportion of shares in newly privatised companies to be left in state hands as a result of stabilisation procedures. This happened with the flotation of Renault and

Spain's Telefonica.

With two dividend payments

MATHEW HORSMAN Media Editor The BBC is in negotiations with BSkyB, Rupert Murdoch's satellite broadcaster, aimed at creating several new television. channels to be available on a Usinor-Sacilor in France and

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

subscription basis only. The talks are in parallel to negotiations between the BBC and US-controlled Flextech, the second force in the £1bn pay-TV market, which the two parties yesterday publicly confirmed were under way.

BBC in

BSkyB

The parallel approach is aimed at ensuring the BBC gets the best deal possible for the development of new channels based on its extensive library and programme-making capacities. It intends to launch the services in time for the introduction of digital television, probably by the end of 1997. Sources close to the negotiations said a deal of some sort

was likely within a month.

The BBC has promised the make its digital programming available on all platforms -satellite, cable or terrestrial - as part of its preparations for the digital age. However, a deal with BSkyB, which dominates the pay-TV sector, could be politi-cally sensitive, and insiders were hinting last night that Flextech, controlled by John Malone's cable giant TCI, could be the preferred partner.

News of Flextech's potential involvement sent its shares 27p higher to 501p, and prompted media analysis to predict additional commercial revenues for the BBC, which has been seeking private sector partners following the announcement this summer of a big restructuring, aimed at preparing the corporation for digital television.

The talks were launched

the wake of Flextech's efforts to take full control of two joint venture channels – UK Gold and UK Living - which it shares with the BBC, Cox Communications of Atlanta and Pearson. According to sources close to the sales talks. Pearson could take up to 15 per cent of Flextech's shares in exchange for its 15 per cent stake in UK Gold and UK Living. The negotiations are still son holding out for an agreement that Flextech would take a rainimum amount of Pearson's Comment, page 17 | television production output.

Littlechild slashes £1bn from Grid revenues CHRIS GODSMARK

Business Correspondent

The electricity watchdog, Offer, yesterday unveiled a tough new price regime for the National Grid which would slash £1bn off revenues.

The news provoked a furious response from the company, but received a warm welcome from consumers' groups.

The four year price controls which start from next April would reduce the Grid's revenues by between 20 and 26 per cent in the first year and limit in-creases in the following three years to 4 per cent below the rate of inflation. The current price formula caps increases at inflation minus 3 per cent.

It would reduce the company's revenues by around £300m a sultants' reports, the head of year, equivalent to customer savings of £4 to £5 off an averannual electricity bill of £300. Grid charges account for about 7 per cent of domestic bills. Peter Weston, from the electricity consumers' committees was delighted. "It's a good day for the today. He was very relaxed and consumer," he said, "It's proof that the balance of benefit is

away from shareholders." the controversial price formula National Grid's operating costs he said. The Grid has reduced its

TransCo, the British Gas pipeline business, the Grid's chief executive, David Jones, said he was "extraordinarily angry at the unprecedented severity and illogicality" of the proposals. But he stopped short of suggesting the dispute would end with a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. He continued: "I would hope our case is so strong that common sense will prevail. It's just too early to

say speculate about the MMC." The announcement took its toll on the Grid's share price. which slumped 10.5p to end the day at 165p, knocking £200m off its stock market value. Grid shares have fallen by more than 20 per cent since the flotation in December.

Backed up by a mass of con-Offer, Professor Stephen Littlechild, was confident the targets were manageable. He said: "What I am proposing is in line with what good management can achieve." One analyst said: "Littlechild was a changed man extremely sure of himself." The Grid has until 10 September to due later in the month.

The price regime would cut devised by the gas regulator for by between 4 per cent and 6 per workforce from 5,900 to 3,500

Changed man: A relaxed Stephen Littlechild, head of Offer, said yesterday he was confident Grid targets would be manageable Photograph: Andrew Buurman cent a year, against the company's projection that cuts of 1.5 per cent were achievable. Offer

had managed to cut costs by 30 per cent over the past three years, a much faster rate than it had don't know where these reductions are going to come from,"

argued there was further scope

for savings, given that the Grid

since 1990 and plans to cut a fur-centred on Professor Littlechild's a price tag which the Grid had ther 500 to 600 jobs in the next price control period. Offer also suggested the Grid

could operate with new investment of £715m over the next four years, compared with the company's estimate of £1.15bn. Professor Littlechild pointed out over the past four years, at £862m, was almost half as much as the Grid's original forecast. But the argument last night

£4bn valuation of the Grid's assets, on which the company will be allowed to earn a rate of return of between 6.5 per cent and 7.5 per cent. Mr Jones claimed the true regulatory value should have been at least £4.6bn, and suggested the Grid price review

to the value of the interconnec-

tor business, the transmission

links with Scotland and France.

agreed with Offer. The remaining £400m gap beadmitted £200m of this related

counted for by the valuation the regulator placed on Energis, the Grid's telecommunications business which runs phone lines over power cables. Energis has lost £125m over the past two years. The company argued the asset base excluded Energis, because no value was put on the business at the Grid's flotation.

Analysts were divided over the Energis valuation, though they were also unimpressed by the

Grid's argument The value of the chairman David Jefferies' 378,000 shares fell by £40,000 yesterday, while the paper value of his share options dropped by £48,000. Professor found Grid pay was on the whole higher than the pay of the rest of the electricity sector.

Facia's receivers join in classic car chase

NIGEL COPE and PAUL FARRELLY

Receivers to Facia, the collapsed retail empire assembled by Stephen Hinchliffe, are trying to trace 100 company cars that were listed among the company's assets before payments can be made to creditors. The list includes several

"classic" cars that may previ-ously have formed part of Mr Hinchliffe's own 70-strong collection of 1950s Ferraris, Aston Martins and Rolls-Royces. Mr Hinchliffe's Jade Mercedes. which features the number plate SH1, is among the assets being sought, as are two cars once used by the former chief operating officer Gary O'Brien. They are a top-of-the-range Mercedes with the number plate M1 GOB and a Vantage Vilante Aston Martin with the

number plate VV1. KPMG, Facia's receivers, is struggling to identify the location of the cars as well as which company they belong to. Their task is being complicated by the company's practice of transferring cars from Mr Hinchliffe's private companies to Facia and

sometimes back again. The car chase has proved so complex that KPMG has hired Charterfield, a specialist collection agent, to find them. Tony Thompson, the receiv-

er, said the motive of this asset shuffling was unclear but said it was not unusual in privately controlled companies.

The details of the missing car

fleet emerged at a subdued creditor's meeting in London yesterday called by KPMG. At the meeting, which was attended by around 30 creditors. KPMG said Facia's total debts to unsecured creditors could be as high as £70m. The figure has been increased by a claim for £30m filed on Tuesday by Sears. the high street retailer, relating to shoe shops the company sold to Facia. But as Sears retains title to some of Facia's assets, such

as shop stock, the final figure is likely to be far lower. Facia's secured creditors. including United Mizrahi Bank which was owed £7.7m and Bank of Scotland which was owed £480,000, have been

Unsecured creditors could receive as little as a penny in the pound. Mr Thompson said he expected the surplus left after payments to secured creditors would be between £700,000 and £5.6m. Facia and the other subsidiaries in receivership are expected to be placed in

liquidation in mid-September. Neither Mr Hinchliffe nor his former finance director, Chris Harrison, was present at the meeting. Mr Hinchliffe is un-derstood to be in the US on business, while Mr Harrison was said to be in Scotland. Neither provided statutory sworn statements for the seven Facia firms in receivership in time for the meeting, though by law they were due within 21 days of the collapse.

However, late on Monday afternoon Mr Harrison did fax an unsworn statement on Salisburys, the luggage chain, to accountants Grant Thornton which partner Maurice Withall said did not tally with his estimates so far.

Mr Harrison did not declare £7.7m owed to United Mizrahi Bank, nor £9.7m owed to Facia Footwear, the former Sears shoe shops under separate administration by Price Waterhouse.

Man United director transfers to Leeds

PATRICK TOOHER

The football transfer merry-goround took a new turn yesterday when Robin Launders resigned as finance director of Manchester United to join arch-rival Leeds as chief executive for an undisclosed sum.

The signing is a coup for the Yorkshire club, which was recently bought for £16.5m by the quoted media group Caspian, and comes days after Manchester United sold its unsettled winger Lee Sharpe to Leeds for £4.5m.

exceptionally good news for Leeds and a real coup because Mr Launders is widely regarded as the man who turned around Manchester United's financial performance.

"He was the driving force behind Manchester United being floated five or six years ago and since then the company's share value has rocketed from

approximately £50m to £300m." Mr Launders helped transform Manchester United from

James Henderson, a spokes—
man for Caspian, said: "This is—
run business into one of the most profitable brand names in the country. Last year, the Old Trafford club made a whopping £20m on sales of £60.6m four times the amount Leeds turned over.

The bulk of revenues came from off-the-field activities such as marketing and merchandising that capitalised on United's unique franchise.

All manner of goods were

branded, including own-label French wine, shampoo and a Manchester United Gameboy launched by Nintendo. Mr Launders, who will also

become a main board director

of Caspian, said he was looking forward to the "wider scope" and "new challenges" offered by the chief executive's role at Leeds. "Leeds have done very well, invested in players and are a club with great prospects. But there is still a lot to do and in my water

I know I can do something."

League football, which satelli broadcaster BSkyB retained in a five-year deal worth a record £670m. He is also known to be an enthusiastic advocate of payper-view television, which could net top Premier League clubs

Sur

£2.5bn a year. Leeds pipped United to the League title in the 1991/92 season, but finished 13th in the Premier League last season. Manchester United, by con-Mr Launders played an active role in recent negotiations over screening rights for Premier trast, clinched the League and FA Cup "double" in May for a unprecedented second time. trast, clinched the League and FA Cup "double" in May for an

Customers back mutual status

Building society customers would rather have better interest rates than cash or share windfalls, according to a survey commissioned by Bradford & Bingley, one of the most outspoken opponents of the recent rash of demutualisations among societies, writes Steve Lodge.

Only one in five people is in favour of building societies converting into banks, falling to one in 10 if there was no windfall on offer, according to the survey. B&B found customers would want more than £3,000 each to sell out in a hostile takeover.

<u> 165 -10.5</u>

As well as believing societies offer better rates than banks, those surveyed said societies gave customers better service and Britain would be worse off if there were only banks.

The findings contrast sharoly with the proven willingness of society customers to vote in favour of selling out to receive £500-plus windfalls, most recently in the case of National & Provincial building society, taken over by Abbey National. All the large windfall proposals announced so far have been recommended by the boards of societies.

& Bingley's director of strategy & communications, said the survey results probably did overestimate how much customers really valued societies.

"There is a guilt thing about ad-mitting you're greedy," he said. But he added the results showed a strong level of customer support for the boards of societies determined to resist takeovers, which include B&B. Hostile takeovers are seen as

a distinct possibility, with Pru-

dential, the insurer, talked of as a likely predator of Woolwich. CURRENCIES

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Dixons defends chief's pay hike NIGEL COPE

Dixons' chairman Sir Stanley Kalms received a 29 per cent pay rise last year, taking his total remuneration to £865,000. The package included a basic salary of £608,000 boosted by a £236,000 performance bonus and other taxable benefits of £21,000. Last year Sir Stanley received total pay of £669,000 including £590,000 basic salary. and a £171.000 bonus.

The pay rise caps a good year for Sir Stanley. He was knighted in the New Years Honours Sir Stanley Kaims: awarded list, then last month Dixons reported a 35 per cent rise in pretax profits to £135m. Dixons' shares have risen strongly on the back of strong sales and the nascent consumer recovery.

Dixons defended its chairman's pay-hike saying that last year he had waived a £100,000 bonus payment as inappropriate in view of the recession. It also said the company's strong performance last year under-

pinned the pay rise.
Sir Stanley joined the company when it was a one-store family business in 1948 and turned it into a FISE100 company with a market capitalisation of £2.1bn. Dixons, whose other chains include Curry's, PC



a 29 per cent pay increase

World and The Link, has been helped by improving markets and booming sales of multi-media computers. PC World, the computer superstore group. has seen sales more than donble to £262m. Comparative sales are sharply ahead with 7 million British households now

Owning a computer. Dixons shares have been one Of the main beneficiaries of a rise in consumer confidence which has also boosted shares in Kinggan fisher, the Woolworths and B&Q group which also owns the Comet chain of electrical stores. Dixons shares closed down 3p yesterday at 507p.

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Grid looks vulnerable as watchdog locks on

Professor Stephen Littlechild has seen the | both run nationwide systems for transmis- | ing and Offer values at £400m. The actual | Clarke to pay its finance director nearly future and its contraction of the contraction o I future and it appears to be Spottiswoode coloured. There was never any doubt that the electricity industry regulator was going to come down hard on the National Grid. But the example of his counterpart over at Ofgas, Clare Spottiswoode, has given him fresh inspiration and fresh ideas about how to apply the thumbscrews in the most unpleasant way possible.

The new price control formula proposed yesterday by Prof Littlechild for the Grid was harsher than the City had been expecting and it has duly produced the predicted howls

David Jones, the Grid's chief executive, managed to stop short of accusing the good professor of expropriating shareholders' funds - one of the many colourful charges levelled by British Gas against its regulator. But he is clearly a far from happy man. The proposals, he fulminates, are unprecedented in their severity and illogicality and amount. moreover, to penalising the business for its

Giordano, might question the bit about them costs. The Professor believes it can do twice being unprecedented, but otherwise, he as well, pointing to a legion of studies by as well, pointing to a legion of studies by as well, pointing to a legion of studies by must be in common cause today, mourning the beastly way regulators take with one hand and rob with the other.

Alas for the National Grid, all those months spent with Offer explaining why the believe. The main dispute on asset valuation business is absolutely nothing like BG's concerns its telecommunication arm, TransCo (except that both are monopolies. | Energis, which the Grid says is worth noth-

sion of energy and both have grown fat on bumper profits) have come to nought.

Prof Littlechild has concluded it is indeed. a lot like TransCo and, like Ms Spottiswoode, he has decided to remedy the situation by recalculating the value of the regulatory asset base on which the Grid is permitted to make a return. This may sound like arcane stuff that only academics such as the professor could be bothered to spend time on but it is of critical importance to TransCo and the Grid. Prof Littlechild has decided, not unreasonably, that the worth of the Grid should bear some relation to what shareholders paid for the assets, not solely their current cost replacement value based on the figures in the accounts.

In this way the value of the business falls from £5bn (the Grid's figure) to £4bn (Offer's figure). Unless Mr Jones can come up with some impressive reductions in running costs, he is looking at a big hit on profits.

This is where the pincer movement takes effect. The Grid reckons it can only shave The chairman of British Gas, Dick 2 per cent a year at most from operating iterdano, might question the bit about them costs. The Professor believes it can do twice management consultants and the Grid's own past performance.

In reality the gulf between the two sides may not be as big as the Grid might have us

effect of this, however, is not great - only £28m a year off operating profits of £656m. Likewise 4 per cent annual efficiency gains hardly look daunting against the 35 per cent achieved in the previous five years and the Grid's declining capital expenditure profile.

But there is a bigger picture which the gridlocked Mr Jones is missing. His company is unpopular. Its boardroom excesses are legion and it needed to be dragged kicking and sceaming into giving customers a £50 rebate at the time of flotation. The new price curbs, even as they stand, would only mean £4 off the average bill. Prof Littlechild is hardly likely to settle for less than that after his maladroit handling of the first electric ity distribution price review.

Supposing Ms Spottiswoode stands her ground with TransCo, then Prof Littlechild's hand can only be strengthened. Grid shareholders may not like it, but they can't say they too weren't set an example. Hanson's timing in selling out at 192.5p is looking better by the day.

The story about the institutional investor which sold its shares in Matthew Clark because it disapproved of excessive relocation expenses for directors is quite the most amusing financial vignette yet to have emerged from the silly season.

This is not because of the episode itself for a small cider company like Matthew

£500,000 to move house is an undeniably disgraceful episode which demands protest but because the institution involved never publicised the matter and even now is reluctant to emerge from behind the veil. It's a bit like the terrorist bomb for which no organisation ever claims responsibility. The public at large is led to believe there is something, somewhere that someone is not very happy about but the point is lost because nobody is prepared to stand up and be

There is a serious point to this story, however. Institutional shareholders are the only people who can actually do anything worthwhile about boardroom excess but so far they have proved remarkably reluctant to act. Fund managers have always regarded exec-utive pay as largely irrelevant to the primary objective of maximising investment returns and in any case, many of them are quite

highly paid themselves. But things are changing. There is a grow-ing realisation among fund managers that boardroom excess does matter, and not just because the public at large is outraged by it or because pension fund trustees are beginning to demand curbs. In smaller companies. excessive executive pay can amount to a very substantial proportion of the profits. And even in larger companies it has a tendency to drag up salary levels throughout the organisation, eventually making the company uncompetitive.

If the institutions are going to have any impact, however, they really do need to start putting their mouths where their money is. The silent protest, the quick sale, may make them feel worthy, it might even satisfy the pension fund trustees, but it hardly provides the example to others that is needed if the executive feeding frenzy is to be curbed.

The European Monetary Institute, the pre-1 cursor to the European central bank, today publishes its first "progress report" on the Target project. If nothing else, this shows that while British eurosceptics might continue to believe that the single European currency is never going to happen, or hope it won't in any case, everyhody else in Eu-rope is steaming ahead with preparations confident in the knowledge that it will.

Target, a system for settling big interbank transactions in the euro, is based largely on British expertise and structures. Just to invent the system, however, is not to participate in its workings, and beneath the picture painted in today's report of steady and harmonious progress lies a snakepit of disagreement and squabbles. The French and the Germans want EMU members to get better terms of access to intra-day credit in the Euro than those outside the new currency. The British naturally want a system that treats ins and outs the same. On this matter, there is no "progress" at

Merrill Lynch plans poaching raid on UK rivals

MATHEW HORSMAN

Merrill Lynch, the giant US investment firm, is poised to launch a large-scale poaching raid on the staff of UK-based competitors, industry sources said yesterday, as it emerged that top media analyst Neil Blackley was leaving Goldman Sachs for Merrill Lynch at an estimated pay package worth as much as £200,000 a year.

in a series of expected departures from big UK firms, as Merrill Lynch, which owns the UK stockbroker Smith New Court, aims to bolster its corporate finance and financial analysis teams in London.

Sources indicated that the oils sector could be a likely target, as the US-owned firm looks to improve its research standing in those areas where it is considered weaker than the general

Mr Blackley, who takes his colleague Meg Geldens with him to Merrill Lynch, was rated fifth in the Extel survey of research this year. He and thenpartner Guy Lamming were the top rated team when they rival US firm, although it was worked for James Capel three years ago. They went to Goldman Sachs as a team in 1993, but Mr Lamming left to join

SBC-Warburg last year. The attraction of Merrill Lynch to Mr Blackley lay in the combination of international distribution and its strong UK base through Smith New Court, sources close to the analyst said yesterday.

Goldman Sachs had originally The move was only the first sought the services of Mr Blackley and Mr Lamming to increase its chances of winning juctative corporate finance deals in the active media sector. The high level of merger activity in the industry has led many large firms to establish dedicated and highly paid teams to co-ordinate research and to bid for corporate finance accounts. Even small boutique operations have beefed up their commitment to

> Mr Blackley was believed to have been in discussions about becoming a partner at Goldman Sachs. It was suggested yesterday that his package at Merrill Lynch was far less than he stood to gain by staying at the

unclear whether a partnership had been formally offered. Goldman sources indicated

vesterday that the departure had been amicable. "We were sorry to see him go - he's a good lad," one source said. The firm intends to mount an international search for a replacement, and confirmed yesterday that it continued to view media as a core The game of musical chairs

in the City has heated up in recent months, with Mr Blackley's oredecessof at Meitill Lynch. Richard Dale, jumping ship with his partner David Forster to join Salomon Brothers earlier this year for a package estimated at £500,000 a year for the two. Merrill Lynch, which struggled for several months to replace the highly rated Dale-Forster team, has been particularly active in the head-hunting market, pinching Stephen Reitman, the highly rated automotive analyst at UBS, ear-lier this year. Said a Merrill insider: "You can be sure there

will be more announcements." The top media slot at Merrill had been left vacant for sever-



Feeling bullish: Merrill Lynch's London offices, one of the venues for a game of musical chairs in the City which has speeded up recently

al months, following the de-parture of Messrs Dale and Forster, who had balked at the heavy hand of the New York in the year. office and the resulting friction between headquarters and the

Smith New Court rump. Their resignations coincided with a minor flood of departures early

Merrill Lynch subsequently sought to regain the advantage,

signalling it would spend treely to develop leading edge research capabilities. "We want the lot," said a company insider.

The campaign to secure fresh

City observers as slightly desperate. The critics suggest the large US firm has yet to soothe the tensions between its New York managers and the UK staff, particularly those who

remain from the Smith New Court days. Mr Blackley is to spend a month on "garden leave", and will join his new firm toward the

end of September.

General Cable extends network

MATHEW HORSMAN Media Editor

Losses at General Cable, the UK cable operator, deepened in the first half of 1996 to £12.6m from £10.9m last year. as the company continued to build its extensive network But Sir Anthony Cleaver, company chairman, said that average revenues per line were being maintained at the level achieved in the first quarter of this year.

General Cable also welcomed the Office of Fair Tradg's ruling on satellite broadcaster BSkyB's supply of programming to the cable industry. Sir Anthony said that cable-exclusive programming, offering products not available on satellite, and additional ATM switching technology, would improve the company's penetration of the market. The new pricing regime would also enable cable operators to undercui BT

Comcast Partners, meanwhile, reported consolidated revenues of £11.8m in the six months to June, up from £653,000 last time. The consolidated operating cash-flow deficit was £3.6m.

Comcast UK's cable lines currently pass more than 837,000 homes, and itscable-TV subscribers have increased by 38 per cent, the residential telephony subscribers by 55 per cent and the business telephony subscribers by 39 per cent. The company has interests in four integrated cable television, residential telephony and business telephony systems in the UK; together these could serve approximately 1.6 million

Survival for insurers: Soft markets and link-ups are likely to increase competition



in focus: GA's chief executive, Bob Scott (right), being photographed with newly appointed group executive director Philip Twyman

General Accident dismisses worries about takeovers

MAGNUS GRIMOND

General Accident, the Perthbased general and life insurer, yesterday dismissed any suggestion that recent mergers in the industry would increase competition. Bob Scott, chief executive, said consolidationhad been a factor in the UK for years. "It won't change the dynamics of the industry. We're competing in segments of the market against some pretty small in-

surance companies."

General Accident's cost structure would be competitive, he said. The group plans to replace all existing computer systems with an integrated package and hive off computer opera-

tions to a new IBM subsidiary dedicated to insurance. The business will be based on GA's 350 computer employees.

Mr Scott spoke as analysts raised profit expectations for the group, prompting a 14p rise in the shares to 678p. Reduced weather losses in the second quarter helped GA claw back some of the damage inflicted by severe conditions across the world in the first three months of the year, although profits before investment gains still slipped from £257m to £194m in the first-half year to June. Steven Bird at brokers Mer-rill Lynch said he was raising his

full year forecast to £411m.

with net assets per share ex-

pected to hit 680p by the year end, up from 657p currently.

The group had had a good second quarter, he said, al-

though he cautioned that reserve movements meant too much should not be read into one quarter's figures. GA said the integration of Provident Mutual, acquired earlier this year, was going faster than expected. The field

force had already been integrated and the head office reorganisation was nearly complete, resulting in 620 staff departures. Integration and transitional costs were now likely to be about £20m this year, £5m less than expected. Investment column, page 18 od Earnings per share rose 6.8 the current 35 per cent.

Sedgwick says merger would be considered

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Sedgwick, the world's third largest insurance broker, yesterday denied recent speculation that it was ready to merge with rival Willis Corroon, but said further industry consolidation was inevitable.

Sax Riley, chief executive, said the group would consider a merger if the strategy of a potential partner matched their own plans. "We continue to believe there is room for three or four global players ... It could be construed that there are six people in the market at the moment." The cake had got smaller

and the margins thinner, Mr Riley said, but Sedgwick would be able to maintain its independent existence. The key to the future would be having control of their own dis-tribution network and owning a large commodity brokerage business. "We can survive on our own...because we are well down the way, on our own

strategy and we are using our own network," he added. The comments came as Sedgwick warned that insurance rates had continued to tumble in most parts of the world. Mr Riley said the com-pany would take a view on rates for the rest of the year in November, although they

"remained confident of the final outcome for the full year". The tough trading conditions pegged Sedgwick's pre-tax profits to £64.1m in the half-year to June, a 2 per cent rise on the comparable peri-

per cent to 7.8p, out of which an interim dividend of 3.75p is being paid, including a foreign income dividend en-hancement of 0.75p.

The figures were below market expectations and the shares fell 5p to 125p yesterday. Robin Savage at brokers Credit Lyonnais Laing said there was disappointment that carnings growth was not coming through from top line growth. "If you look at the US revenues, these are flat, while flat UK revenues were made up for by growth in Europe and the Far East."

Willis Corroon has declared that it is ready to positively reorganise itself to grow in soft markets, but there has been no such clear message from Sedgwick, Mr Savage said.

Sedgwick's brokerage and fee income rose from £451m to £467m in the half-year, a 1 per cent rise in constant currency terms, while expenses were cut by 1 per cent on the same basis. Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, the employee benefits and financial services operations, saw underlying trading profits rise 12 per cent to £7.4m, But the increase would have been cut to 2 per cent if a £700,000 benefit on the sale of a US third party administration company is stripped out.

Mr Riley said he was more confident about the UK part of the business than he had been for a very long time. The aim was to raise the proportion of group income from consultancy and other fees to 50 per cent of the total from

IN BRIEF

• The value of July retail sales rose 5.4 per cent on a like-for-like hasis from a year earlier, according to the latest monthly survey by the British Retail Consortium. Although the growth rate of sales values was more moderate than in the previous two months, the underlying trend remains healthy, the BRC said. It noted that non-food sectors "generally performed better" than food in July, with sales of ice cream and soft drinks hit by the "mixed weathwith sales of fee cream and soft drinks hit by the "mixed weather". Clothing and footwear sales were "relatively strong", and housing-related retail sectors were strong. BRC chief economic advisor Andrew Sentance said that better consumer spending, and a pick-up in the world economy, "should feed through into better growth in the economy as a whole later this year.

Renault, the French car-maker, reported a slide in first-half turnover but the decline was less pronounced than investors had feared after recent disappointing European and French car sales figures. Renault said group sales slipped 2.9 per cent to FF94.09bn FF96.208 bn. Renault's shares hit an all-time low of FF107 recently after June car sales figures showed its European market share had slipped to 9.6 per cent from 11.1 per cent in 1995 and its share of the French market to 26.5 per cent from 31.7 per cent. Renault's Laguna and recently launched Megane models have a higher ticket price than the smaller Clio and Twingo. Fujitsu of Japan said it obtained a US patent for its technology used for plasma display panels for large-sized TV screens. Fujitsu also said it plans to charge Japanese and Korean companies making PDPs in the U.S. for the rights. The technology is used to display colours with thick and thin tones on the screen, it said. Fujitsu also is seeking to obtain patents for the same technolo-

The disruption caused by the threatened all-out strike by British Airways' pilots cost BA £10m, not BAA as may have been inferred from yesterday's report on page 17.

Norway's Den norske Bank realised profits after taxes of NK 1.51 billion in the first half of 1996, compared with NK 1.67 billion in the corresponding period of last year. Net interest in-come totalled NK 2.1 billion in the first half of the year, compared with NK 2.13 billion in the first half of 1995. Net other operating income totalled NK 1.48 billion in the first half of the year, as against NK 1.43 billion in the same period of last year.

Consumer prices in the US rose moderately in July, the Labor Department said, providing further evidence that inflationary pressures at the retail level are still largely muted. The consumer price index rose 0.3 per cent in the month following a 0.1 per cent rise in June as food and housing costs offset declines in energy. The rise was not a cause for big concern on the inflation front, Lewis Alexander, chief economist at the Commerce Department, said. "Any time inflation ticks up it is a source of concern, but I think if you look into the details of it, I think it's a

 Average weekly earnings of US workers, after adjusting for inflation and seasonal factors, fell 1.5 per cent in July, the Labor Department said. The July drop followed a 2.2 per cent rise in June real average weekly earnings. The July decrease stems from a 1.2 per cent drop in average weekly hours, a 0.2 per cent de-cline in average hourly carnings and a 0.2 per cent increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Cleri-cal Workers. Real average weekly earnings in July were off 0.4 percent from July last year, the department said.

GA set to weather stormy times

The stock market has been anticipating a downturn in the insurance cycle for some time and, after last year's bumper results, shares in General Accident have marked time in 1996. But yesterday's first-half figures to June tend.

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

walne of the company at not much more than 100-110p per share. A takeover is possible but packaging companies would probably prefer to see capacity dropping out of the market pacity dropping out of the m to support the group's own confidence that it can survive the onset of leaner times for the industry.

Stripping out realised investment gains, operating profits slid a quarter to £194m. However, much of the damage was weather-related, which has not been repeated in the second threemonths of the year. This improvement helps to explain the better underwriting result this year (see table), particularly in the UK, even if storms in the Mid-West of the US continued to be a drag on second-quarter results. In all, weather cost an extra £56m in the half year, with US property accounts alone appointed a new chief executive. John

deteriorating by \$49m.
Weather lies outside the control of the insurance industry, so more encouraging were signs that, despite increasing competition, recent rate rises are sticking. First-half increases in the personal motor businesses ranging from 4 to 6 per cent helped turn a £9m underwriting loss in the first quarter

into a modest £1m profit in the second. The outlook for motor also looks reasonable. Despite these rate rises, GA has put on a further 25,000 clients in the six months, taking the total to 725,000. and is experiencing an 87 per cent renewal rate in its direct operation. A further 3.5 per cent hike in commercial motor, taking the rise for the year to 9.5 per cent, should also go some way to

reversing the deteriorating trend there. More worrying are the prospects for the UK household account, where GA warned that there are few signs of any rate increases. Indeed, more competition is hitting intermediaries' commissions, if not yet rates themselves.

But the excitement in GA at the moment lies on its life side. The integration of Provident Mutual, acquired in a £170m deal at the turn of the year, is going ahead faster than expected. The life assurer chipped in an unexpected £5m to the latest figures, with the costs of the merger lower and sav-ings higher than originally forecast. The group remains on the lookout for fur-ther life acquisitions in Europe.

GA has proved canny in managing its existing UK life operation. Low past payout levels mean the fund has a surplus of over £1bn, at least part of which should eventually benefit shareholders.

Whether continued attempts to save costs, now to involve outsourcing all computer operations to a new IBM insurance subsidiary, will match savings from the Sun Alliance-Royal Insurance

GENERAL ACCIDENT : AT A GLANCE

Market value: £3.27bn, share price 678p

tnerger remains to be seen. In the flexible packaging business three years meantime, the shares, up 14p at 678p, stand on a forward yield of 6.1 per cent. assuming Merrill Lynch's dividend forecast is met. A firm hold.

New head boosts Sidlaw

Durston will replace Digby Morrow who was ousted in May following the com-

Mr Durston joins from Valpack, a packaging industry body, but was pre-viously at Lawson Mardon, a privately owned packaging group. With 30 years in the industry he is clearly experionced but he remains something of a dark horse in the City, mainly because he has never been a director of

a public company.

The company has been in a terrible bind since it spent £79m on Courtaulds'

Underwriting results (Em)

Cuarter 1 🗆 Osenter 2

Trading record

ago. Having been criticised for overpaying, the company was hit by soar-ing raw material prices. It also chased volume, neglecting margins.

Two rights issues followed, one at 275p and another at 180p, and shareholders who took up their rights at those prices are no doubt feeling aggreeved. It was problems in packaging, including costs and packaging, including costs are not appeared by the problems of the packaging, including costs are not appeared by the problems in packaging, including costs are not appeared by the problems in packaging, including costs are not appeared by the problems in packaging. including costs associated with the clo-sure of a factory, that forced Sidlaw into a £4m loss at the half-year stage.

A trading update accompanied yesterday's chief executive appointment and it did contain some good news. The group was profitable in the three months to June with the upturn largely coming from the oil services division which is performing well. Trading at the

packaging division remains patchy.

The challenge for Mr Durston is to create more shareholder value in a packaging market that is over-crowded. The oil services division may be sold off which would reduce gearing. It a highly regarded business though some analysts question whether it is capable of dramatic growth.

Share price perice

Panmure Gordon puts the break-up

Analysts are expecting pre-excep-tional profits of around £1.1-£1.2m this year. But the shares have lost more than two-thirds of their value in the last two years and it looks like a long slog back.

A 16 per cent jump in Pifco's pre-tax profits for the year to April from £2.7m to £3.12m showed the small appliance manufacturer is back on track after last year's disappointment. Despite chairman Michael Webber's perennial caution, consumer confidence is plainly

reviving and prospects look brighter. At this mature and relatively low-value added end of the electronics market, however, growth needs more than a general uptick in the economy. New products are essential, new geographical markets a help, and acquisitions are realistically the only way to pro-vide economies of scale and wide-brand portfolios that will drive up margin growth.

No surprise then that after being left at the altar last year by a French hairdryer maker, Pifco is now actively seeking another deal, probably in Europe where it intends to generate half its sales, compared with the current 28 per cent of sales.

With £6.4m in the bank and a willingness to take on debts and issue new shares, there is plainly the scope to tackle a sizeable purchase. And with the successful integration of Russel Hobbs Tower a few years ago, Pifco has proved it does possess the management

ability to take on a big challenge.
On the new product front, the introduction of new, patented, printed element technology for the 25 milliona-year world kettle market augurs well. Noticeably faster, more energy efficient and less prone to limescale than the traditional kettle, the new product can be expected to take a good slice of the 5 million UK market after it is introduced in September.

Forecasts for the current year of about £3.4m, for earnings of 18.9p, put the shares, up 5p to 269p, on a prospec-tive price/earnings ratio of 14. That suggests that the company is solid and well-managed, but compared with a relatively pedestrian growth rate of 7 per

and £440m. For the year to Sep-

tember 1997 forecasts of £505m

£460m to £470m.

were replaced by a range of

The company also flagged

problems at its Ohmeda health-

care business which makes the

Forane anaesthetic, and saw

profits fall 27 per cent in the

third quarter to June. For the

nine-month period to that date,

profits were 15 per cent lower.

chief executive, who took over

Danny Rosenkrantz, the

The building societies that definitely said 'No'

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

Poor old Michael Hardern, self-employed butler and founder of "Members for Conversion", a ginger group for building society members who want remaining societies to convert to plc status and shower their customers with the resulting cash handouts.

Mr Hardern has been unceremoniously booted out by Bradford & Bingley, Chelsea, Nottingham and Britannia.

His crime? For being "nothing but a nuisance, a troublemaker, a waster of members' money," according to B&B director John

Wriglesworth. Mr Hardern describes his expulsion as a member by the quartet as "outrageous. It's all very sad. Another demo-cratic institution that doesn't want its members to participate in the running of it."

Mr Hardern's campaign came to a head when he asked the Building Society Commission for access to membership lists of all 52 remaming mutuals. The BSC turned him down, and Mr Wriglesworth's battalions took their cue, sending back whatever money (with interest) Mr Hardern had deposited with them, and informing him his custom was no longer welcome. "He's just after a quick buck," Mr Wriglesworth concluded.

Even for the hardened professionals, Facia's creditors meeting in London yesterday

from Pat Rich at the beginning

of the year, said third-quarter

price competition in the anaes-

thetic product market "was

very acute", affecting prof-

itability for its Forane product.

Prices fell faster than the group

anticipated, he said, and "are set

to deteriorate further" in the

The news took the edge off

group profits for the nine

months, which managed an 11

per cent rise to £327.3m on an

fourth quarter.



Getting tough: John Wriglesworth and B&B colleagues

was a pretty staid affair de-spite fresh Serious Fraud Of-fice interest. The company's receiver, KPMG's Rony Thompson, had a dry run re-hearsal beforehand, practising 160 of the trickiest likely questions. In the event, the massed ranks of KPMG, Grant Thornton and lawyers Nabarro Nathanson had to deal with just one query, without a scream or a tantrum in the house.

There was hardly an actual creditor to be seen. A few suppliers, yes, who had (literally) lost their shirts, or several thousand quid to Facia's chairman Stephen Hinchliffe. Most of the 80 or so there were fellow accoun-

8 per cent increase in turnover

to £2.99bn. Higher profits were

driven by an 11 per cent rise in

the core gases business as mar-

gins improved in most regions.

BOC is building a 1,290-

tonnes-a-day oxygen and nitro-gen plant in India which it

hopes will give it a toehold in the

east of the sub-continent. The

company has also made its first

move into the Russian industrial

gases market with a condit-

ional agreement to acquire a

Congratulations to Christopher Sheridan, former deputy chairman and chief executive of Samuel Montagu, one of the very few people in the City to reach the top of a merchant

bank from starting as a humble forex trader. Mr Sheridan retired from the HSBC-owned bank two years ago and has just been elected a non-executive director of City

law firm Lovell White Durrant. The 53-year-old Twickenham rugby fan adds this to a clutch of other non-exec directorships, including Yorkshire Building Society and Prudential-Bache International Bank.

Law firms are keen to grab top City types for their boards these days, as their share of corporate work increases. In the 25 years he was there Mr Sheridan built Samuel Montagu into one of the best foreign exchange operations in the City. For all that he is a "very modest chap", according to City colleagues.

tants, in fact, vulturing for the liquidation job once the receivers had finished recov-

ering the banks' debts. On the circuit, apparently, these professional meeting goers are known as the "98 club" (after section 98 of the Insolvency Act). Section 98 enables creditors to convene a meeting to appoint a liq-uidator. Ambulance chasers, then, by another name.

Many Scots have sailed off to the distant shores of Australia over the last two centuries. Now quite a few of them are coming back.

Bob Scott, chief executive of General Accident, has just recruited a fellow native of Sydney, Philip Twyman, as a group executive director in charge of finance.

Mr Scott admits that both come from Australian-Scottish stock, and both hale from the same Antipodean city - but that the link ends there. They did not know each other down under, and it's not an Ozzie plot to take over the Perth-based insurer. The link grows stronger. GA has just sent a Scot, Hector Smith, to Australia to run

the company's business there.

controlling interest in Volgograd

Oxygen, one of Russia's top

three industrial gases companies.

prospects, vacuum products ac-

tually had a strong third quar-ter with profits 35 per cent

higher, or 37 per cent up in the

listing its shares on the New

York Stock Exchange through

an ADR programme. Trading

could start in late September.

BOC said it was considering

year so far.

Despite the warning on future

BOC forecasts reined back after warning

194m (257m) 49.3p (44.5p) -12.6m (-10.9m) -4.7p (-4.5p) 20.1m (14 2m) 41.8m (37 4m) 3.1m (2.7m) 17.6p (16p) 54 tm (63.1m) 7.8p (7.3p) 64. (m (54.3m)

tumbling 40p. or 4 per cent, to 855p. The company's warning of problems in its vacuum products and healthcare businesses had analysts reaching for their red pens and reining back forecasts 1 65m (1.31m) 15.62p (12 66p) 5.2p (4 75p) by almost 10 per cent. The company said some semifinance accountancy 3

An 8 page section covering vital issues in accountancy, public sector finance and the legal profession with pages of appointment opportunities

> See pages 16 - 23 section two

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Every Wednesday in the

THE INDEPENDENT section two

Rathbone acquires Liverpool broker

TOM STEVENSON

A veiled profits warning from

BOC yesterday sent shares in the gases and healthcare group

NIC CICUTTI

Rathbone Brothers, the quoted private banking and asset management group, yesterday agreed takeover terms worth £15.9m for Neilson Cobbold, one of Liverpool's oldest stock-

broking firms.

The combined company will have more than £2.3bn in discretionary funds under management, plus a further £1.5bn in advisory funds, of which £300m are held in personal eq-

The deal will also allow Rath-

bones to develop its coverage outside its traditional London and Liverpool heartlands into the South and North-west of England, together with Scotland. Micky ingall, chief executive at Rathbones, said: "Taken with the acquisition of Lawrence Keen [the stockbrokers] last year, this will meet our core objective of building a major business group specialising in the provision of investment man-

agement and banking services for private investors, their trusts "Discretionary management will continue to be the major business activity, together with a range of complementary services, including banking, stockbroking, trust and company management and financial

planning. Mr Ingall added that Neilson Cobbold, which achieved profits of £942,000 on turnover of £4.8m in the six months to 31 March, was not expected to contribute significantly to the en-



By popular demand: Skoda cars helped WV to increase European market share

Healthy worldwide sales fuel VW profits surge

ELISABETH KLEIN

Volkswagen, Europe's largest car-maker, yesterday reported a huge leap in first-half net profits of DM282m (£123m), up 150 per cent from the same

conductor manufacturers, who

are big customers of BOC's Edwards Vacuum Products sub-

sidiary, were reappraising ex-

pansion plans. But BOC

confirmed its faith in the long-

term prospects for the industry.

view: "What BOC has delivered

at today's meeting is effectively

a profits warning", one said. Consensus forecasts for the

year to September fell from

about £450m to between £438m

Analysts took a less sanguine

Haus-Peter Blechinger, a spokesman for VW, said: "Increased sales of 14 per cent and strong earnings on financial services are the roots of the

"Although competition in the market for small cars has increased incredibly, we were able to raise our share of the market in Europe from 16.7 per cent in January to 17.2 larged group in 1996. Full ben-efits would flow through in 1997. with our competitors we did

man car-maker, which includes the Czech Skoda manufacturer, said that group income from ordinary activities, the main benchmark used by industry analysts to evaluate the company, rose 45 per cent to DM891m from DM616m last year. Volkswagen's worldwide deliveries to customers rose by

12.6 per cent to 2 million ve-

bicles in the period. But the car-maker is losing market share in its very own and biggest market, Germany, which accounts for 25 per cent of total sales. Here market share fell by 1.5 per cent to 27.3

per cent.
"Our German performance was below average. But in

outstandingly well." The Ger- the growth markets such as Asia or South-America we realised growth rates up to 36 per cent," Mr Blechinger

Volkswagen was happy with its performance in the UK market. Mr Blechinger said: We improved our market share in Britain from 4.0 per cent in the first half of 1995 to 5.41 per cent in the same period this year. This is a fantastic result - but we won't be satisfied with it for long."

Volkswagen is currently at the centre of a row between the European Union and the state of Saxony over subsidies worth billions of deutschmarks for constructing a new car-plant near Dresden.

IN BRIEF

• Persona Group, the distributor of computer networks, communications and Unix products, saw its shares jump 28p to 313p after it announced a 30 per cent increase in earnings per share to 8.97p for the six months to June. Figures for the first half were heavily distorted by the acquisition at the beginning of the year of Top Log, the French computer distributor. Turnover of £65.2m in the half-year was 165 per cent higher than in 1995 and pretax profits 133 per cent better at £3.15m. Even at the underlying level, however, sales rose 38 per cent suggesting still strong organic growth. Wayne Channon, chairman, said: "We are pleased with the substantial progress we have made, in particular the signing of major vendors in France – these include 3Com, Bay Networks, Compaq, Microsoft and Netscape. I believe the group is stronger than it has ever been, both financially and commercially. and look forward to the future with confidence."

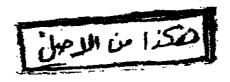
 De Beers said yesterday the Central Selling Organisation, which manages the bulk of the world's diamond sales, had been able to push prices 3 per cent higher since July, thanks to strong demand for larger stones. The increase for stones above one carat averaged 7 per cent. The retail diamond jewellery markets continued to report satisfactory sales, De Beers said, and the outlook remained positive. De Beers' comments accompanied the results for the six months to June, which showed an 18 per centrise in attributable earnings to US\$482m and a 5.5 per cent rise in the dividend to 27 cents per linked unit. There were improvements in the diamond accounts of both De Beers and Centenary and investment income benefited from a substantial increase in the Anglo American Corporation dividend payout.

 Louis Vuitton Moet Hennessy, the luxury goods company recorded flat sales in the first-half, mainly due to currency fluctuations and a fall in sales at the Cognac and spirits division. Group sales in the six months to June were FFr13.38bu compared to FFr13.34 achieved in the same period last year. Cognac total sales rose by 13 per cent but the product mix is thought to remain unfavourable. Sales fell in the perfumes and beauty products division hit by in-

 Epwin, a maker of PVC building products, warned that trading in the remainder of the year would remain "demanding" after the company unveiled first-half profits cut from £2.63m to £2.02m. The group said that the results were in line with expectations and included £200,000 in redundancy costs, a sum which it hoped to recoup by the year-end. The group's working capital has been reduced, with a cut in borrowings of about £2m. The full-year figures should see a return to the more traditional second-half bias, Epwin said. Meanwhile, the earnings per share fell from 8.2p to 6p, out of which an unchanged interim dividend of

TBI said all conditions relating to the acquisition of Belfast International Airport have now been either satisfied or waived. It said the acquisition is now unconditional in all respects and has

 Bellway is to be promoted to the FTSE250 index following the £1.67bn takeover of Southern Water by Scottish Power. The housebuilder has a market value of just under £300m.



SIMY II AUGUST Peg



THE INDEPENDENT • WEDNESDAY 14 AUGUST 1996

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market report/shares

Dairy shares cream off profit on OFT rumours

Hopes the Office of Fair Trading is about to call for curbs on Milk Marque offered dairy shares their own "milky way" Northern Foods improved 3p to 196p and Unigate 6p to 433p. Robert Wiseman, the Scottish milk supplier, gained

4p to 170p.
The OFI has been probing the milk industry and, in particular, milk prices, for some time. The stock market suggestion was it would pronounce this week but a spokesman would only say a re-port would be out "shortly".

The milk industry has complained bitterly about the prices charged by Milk Marque, the nation's largest supplier which replaced the Milk Marketing

Board three years ago.

Although milk prices have Although milk prices have been reduced, the cuts have been modest and the dairies believe they do not reflect the state of the market. They are also unhappy about the or-

ganisation's near monopolistic role.

The leading dairies have had to contend with a sharp fall in door-to-door deliveries although there have been some signs of a recovery. As doorstep deliveries have fallen super-

market sales have soared. Northern and Unigate have been hit by the changes in the milk industry and undergone enforced restructurings. Four years ago Northern's shares topped 300p. Profits subsequently fell from £157.2m to £16.4m. Last year the group achieved £119.8m and this year stockbroker Mees Pierson is looking for £137m with around £150m next.

The rest of the market returned to more cheerful ways,

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter

Hopes of lower interest rates continued to provide much of the inspiration. A tutions are nursing vast cash hoards also helped sentiment. National Grid failed to join

in the fun. The stronger-thanexpected restrictions proposed by industry regulator, Profes-sor Stephen Littlechild, sent the shares back to their low, off of at 165p. The proposals, if they go through, damage the Grid's prospects for increasing lividends.

The share price fuse puts stanson in a favourable light.

Lead in Grid charge merger of the stanson in a favourable light. 10p at 165p. The proposals, if they go through, damage the Grid's prospects for increasing

Hanson in a favourable light.

of the year points to 4,346.1, its 10th sucthem still on James Capel's

books, at 192.5p. Hanson, of course, has fared less well with its proposed four-way demerger. Tomorrow, with its third-quarter figures, it is expected to offer an upbeat break up statement. The shares firmed to 166p.

BTR was another conglomerate looking a shade perkier. Its shares gained 5.5p to 264.5p, injecting some life into its weary

Securities added to Cookson's discomfort by repeating his sell advice although Geoff Allum, who left Nat West to join Henderson Crosthwaite, rates the shares a buy.

National Westminster Bank was the best performing blue chip, up 18.5p to 680p. Other banks were strong but NatWest enjoyed the added benefit of Chartered Institute of Bankers report saying it had the largest share of the UK corporate market.

Rank Organisation improved 10p to 461p as Hen-derson described its new strategy as "realistic and logi-cal" but British Biotech continued to suffer from the Crédit Lyonnais Laing sell advice, falling 1 Ip to 204p. There is talk of a target price of 150p. Stockbroker Neilson Cobbold collapsed 75p to 330p as the agreed Rathbone Brothers

Bruce MacDonald of NatWest And Tom Cobleigh, the pubs chain, gained 5p (after 10p) to 228p with Yates, the wine lodge chain, and First Leisure emerging as favourites to bid. Horace Clarkson, the ship-

broker, held at 101p although an 8.5 per cent share sale was revealed. James Cropper, the paper group, rose 23p to 350p as it enjoyed its best ever quarter's trading. Sidlaw, the packaging and oil services group, gained 12p to 108p; an upbeat trading statement was accom-panied by the appointment of John Durston, ex-Lawson

Mardon, as chief executive. Flextech added 27p to 501p on its planned UK Gold and UK Living deals and joint TV ventures with the BBC.

Newcomer Chemical Design continued to find support. The shares rose 12p to 145p. They were placed at 110p. Yorkshire Foods plunged 23p to 49p following the warn☐Talk AIM is suffering from new issue fatigue has not been supported this week. After Chemical Design's im-

TAKING STOCK

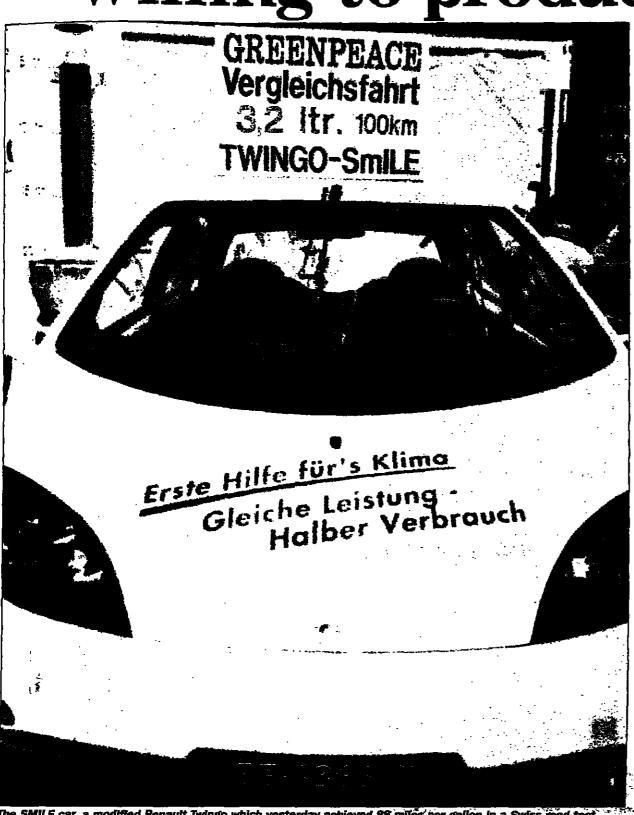
pressive début, Gall Thomson Environmental, a marine couplings group, stretched to 61p from a 50p placing and Dentmaster, with a system for removing minor car dents. went from 3p to 4p. The trio should offer comfort for companies still working their way to AIM although a number of flotations have been

∏Pan Andean Resources fell 7p to 111p as BHP confirmed it intends to drill on the Chapare Block in Bolivia this year. A report by resource ex-perts David Williamson Asso-ciates says if the well "live up to expectations, its value to PAR could approach £5 a would doubtless result in a

	ASOND JEMAN JA state of the market. They are peak hit in April. The sup- Hanson in a favourable light. was caught in the BOC slip- the agreed Rathbone Brothers 23p to 49p following the warn- would doubtless result in a also unhappy about the or- porting 250 index put on 14.2 It sold its Grid shares, many of stream, falling 9p to 257p, bid came in below expectations, ing about second half profits, considerable market setback."
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from 0.37 to 0.25.

Why is the world's motor industry not willing to produce a car like this?



The SMILE car, a modified Renault Twingo which yesterday achieved 88 miles per gallon in a Swiss road test

Would motorists pay more to save the world?

savings in two years or less. If

who could justify owning a car

at all, they certainly would.
The SMILE (which Green-

peace originally wanted to call

the Gringo) produces fewer smog pollutants, such as oxides

of nitrogen and hydrocarbons.

More importantly, it cuts emis-sions of carbon dioxide by over

motorist? The car industry

claims it knows its market inside

out, and the public are not prepared to pay extra for such

a car in an extremely competi-

Industry experts also ques-tioned whether drivers would

like the feel and sound of a two-

cylinder engine. But none of

them doubted the technical

achievements which Greenpeace Germany's deutschmarks

have purchased from Swiss engine and car designers.

have promised national governments and the European

Commission to cut the fuel consumption of the average

new car by 10 per cent between

the early 1990s and 2005. The

SMILE goes way beyond that. But it does not quite win the holy grail for the industry, which

has been set at 3 litres to cov-

er 100 kilometres. The German

industry, by far Europe's largest,

may begin manufacturing "mi-cro cars", urban runabouts,

which achieve that, in a few

But if such vehicles only fill

Europe's car manufacturers

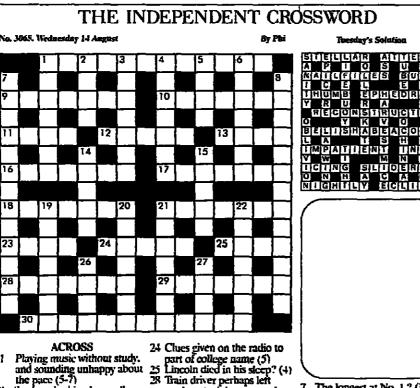
tive marketplace.

But what about the ordinary

NICHOLAS SCHOON

According to Greenpeace, its SMILE car would cost about 12 per cent more than a conventional Twingo - or around £870 extra - if it went into mass pro-

Would anyone buy it? If they were economists, driving the annual average mileage or more, they would - because the extra price would be covered by fuel



Above: General Motor's electric car, EV1, which goes on sale in the US in October. Below: British Leyland's

ultra fuel efficient concept car, ECV-3, of 1982

Student, looking less wellfed, receiving second instal-

- ment of grant (7) Lady's mantle; most of fur is skin of sable (7)
- 11 A cuekoo, on reflection, is a
- fish! (4) 12 Soldier's allowed a waistcoat
- 13 What sounds like top dog (4)
- In Picture Shakspeare's warring family (not upper-class) (7) 17 Deception: misleading the
- girls? That's not right (7) 18 Confectionery that is second
- in range (7)
 21 Seoundrel getting a company 5
 to import a Caribbean druk
- 23 Scoundrel snatching King or
- part of college name (5) 25 Lincoln died in his steep? (4) 28 Train driver perhaps left
- 29 Fish for English sailor when on board (3-4)30 Secure cable after accident
- on stem of frigate a notorious case (5,7) DOWN
- Mum taking girl on the river Passed on - on into confines
- of grave (4) Motor - see it burn out before end of race (7) Have a good effect, changing leader or ruler (7) Regular payment to suffice,

to get rid of? (4-3)

- mother stuck in wet weather drug in part of hotel (9, 4) Jazz player has one entering the floor (5)
 - 20 Tin cans constructed of tin? Advice to have effect mostly -
- Moses or another OT lease being reduced (4)
 6 Savings one would be cuckoo 27

a niche market, then they will The longest at No. 1? (3-4.6) Person ticked off after taking not bring down the average

fuel efficiency. The industry has been telling the EU Commission that an average of 5 litres per 100 km for all new cars Certainly restricting a King's cannot be delivered by 2010. lifespan in most cases (5) 19 Bullfight - girl gets to go round free (7) Ever since the first oil price

individual stops short (7)
Driver finishing early, before time - the idiot (7)
I'm enthralled by Hosea,

have been showing off concept cars with dramatically improved fuel efficiency. But, with very few exceptions, no prototype has come anywhere near mass production. In California, local laws make it mandatory for manufacturers to market a certain proportion of ultra-low emission vehicles. But the im-

position of this law has been put

back from 1998.

shock of 1973 manufacturers

John Randle, a former diand called on car makers to respond to the challenge.

"The kind of changes that have been made here might actually make the car cheaper," he said. "At the moment we're going in the wrong direction.

yesterday covering a 200km course, the Smile's fuel con-

ban, countryside and motorway driving, was overseen by the German certification body, TUV, and its Swiss counterpart. EMPA, to ensure fair play. Greenpeace says its vehicle performs just as well in terms of acceleration and top speed as the ordinary Twingo - although it feels that cars should never be driven faster than 130kph (81mph).

petrol it also produces correspondingly less carbon dioxide of the Twingo's normal engine. rising emissions of which are the main cause of man-made funded and run by Greenpeace global warming, and vehicle Germany, the wealthiest and global warming, and vehicle fumes make a big contribution. It produces no more smogcausing pollutants than a Twingo, and meets the tougher European Union smog standards which come into force

Environment Correspondent

Greenpeace yesterday challenged Europe's car makers to slash fuel consumption and the cost of motoring when the environmental group unveiled its

The "small, intelligent, light and efficient" vehicle, a modified Renault Twingo, does almost twice as many miles a gallon as its conventional counterpart and cars of similar size. without using any radical new

rector of engineering at Jaguar who is now a professor of automotive engineering, said the re-engineering that the environmental campaign group had achieved was "perfectly logical",

In a road test in Switzerland

sumption was 43 per cent less than a conventional Twingo. It also did 49 per cent better than a Ford Escort and 45 per cent better than a Volkswagen Polo. The test, which covered ur-

> quite achieved it. The re-engineering was done by three Swiss companies amid

> > The project was entirely best-supported of its national organisations, and it cost 2.5 million German marks (£1.1 m).

The vehicle represents Greenpeace's fliggest and most expensive effort in "solutions oriented campaigning" - a new are identifying ourselves with a Centre, questioned whether the transport tool we should be modified car would be more exfighting. But it's impossible for pensive in production. Based on us to ignore the car - we decided Greenpeace's descriptions of

The shape was altered using glass fibre and carbon fibre-reinforced plastic to reduce the wind resistance. Drag coefficient (cW) cut

Swiss-made Wenko AG two cylinder petrol engine with pressure wave supercharger, 360 cc, 55 horsepower at 5,500 rpm. During ordinary driving the little engine is working nearer to full power than a conventional engine and is therefore running more efficiently. When more power is needed (acceleration, uphili, motorway)

GEAR BOX -Five speed, manual gear shift with ratios adjusted to complement the

WEIGHT =
The Twingo's weight was cut from 845 kg (including full tank) to 650 kg - a 23 per cent cut. Half of the saving came from having a smaller engine, which needed a smaller bettery, radiator and exhaust system). Smaller petrol tank saved weight, and so did lighter chairs and suspensions, drum brakes and wheels.

TYRES AND WHEELS Light-weight wheel rims and special Michelin tyres enable wheel weight to be cut by 30 per cent.

and conflict within the international organisation. The object is to identify solutions to environmental problems, then confront a recalcitrant industry with them. Greenpeace picked Renault's

best-selling Twingo because of its striking looks and size; very compact, but still large enough to carry an average family. Its objective was to halve its fuel consumption, but it has not yet

considerable secrecy and the most important change was the engine. The Smile uses a fourstroke engine with two cylinders in the horizontally opposed, "boxer" position. Its capacity is just 360cc - less than one-third

Wolfgang Lohbeck, the pro-

ject leader, said: "People with-

strategy which has caused debate we had to change it." Consumers wanted cars, and more and more would be built as markets in developing countries expanded. Greenpeace had to show how cars could be made less environmentally destructive,

easily and cheaply. "We wanted a drop-in solution, changes that could be made now without futuristic tech-nologies," Herr Lohbeck said. Yesterday the motor industry

in Britain was unaware of the Greenpeace project - with the exception of Renault, which has given no co-operation to The Twingo has proved a runaway success on the Continent,

but the French car giant has not

released it in Britain as yet - al-

though it might offer a righthand drive version in two year's Renault UK's view was that even if the modifications added only £300 to the price, that would turn away buyers. "Customers won't pay, it's as simple

as that," a spokesman said. But Professor Randle, diin Greenpeace are still saying rector of Birmingham Univerthat by making the car better we sity's Automotive Engageering are identifying ourselves with a Centre, questioned whether the transport tool we should be modified car would be more ex-

the alterations, he said he would be surprised if the car was 35 per cent more fuel-efficient overall than a conventional Twingo. But the changes were a step in the

right direction. In the past six years the average car has become about 30 per cent heavier and fuel efficiency - which improved drasti-cally in the early Eighties - has stagnated or even declined, because of extra safety equipment such as side-impact protection bars, and the public's perceived demand for higher specifications (such as electrically operated windows) and performance.

Europe's leading car engineering consultancy, Ricardo, which is based in Shoreham-on-Sea, West Sussex, said the Smile car's achievements were not remarkable.

"These fuel savings are good, but they have been nettered by. the car manufacturers - they know about this kind of technology," a spokesman said. So why were such cars not built? "That's for the manufacturers to answer.

Thilo Bode, executive director of Greenpeace, International, said: "The car industry is obstructing feasible technology which would help prevent climate change."

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Home Contents Cover

Answer YES to the following and you could save up to 15% Does your home have an annually maintained burglar alarm?

Is a 5-lever mortise lock fitted to the Yes 🔲 No 🗍 Are all other external doors fitted with key-operated locks or bolts? Yes D No D Are secure key-operated locks fitted to Yes 🔲 - No 🔲 Are you an active member of

Yes O No O For insurance on listed buildings, those of non-standard construction, flats and marsonettes, or if you are the lan the property to be insured, please telepi